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ABSTRACT

This book consists of a compilation of brief descriptions of legislation on issues critical to children and families enacted during 1995 by the states and the District of Columbia. The laws pertaining to various issues are listed by state. The issues are: (1) abuse and neglect (including screening, court procedures and considerations, offenses and penalties, financing, legal representation and special advocates, organization and oversight, prevention and treatment, registries and records, reporting and investigations, sex offender registries, sexual abuse and exploitation, and victim and witness exploitation); (2) child care and early childhood education (including administration, background checks, financing and publicly funded programs, preschool services, regulation and licensing, school-age child care and child care in public schools, services for at-risk persons and family support, and support for providers); (3) child mental health (including administration and financing, and treatment); (4) child support enforcement (including administration, procedures, license revocation and suspension, enforcement, guidelines, health or medical support, income withholding, interstate enforcement, and paternity); (5) child welfare (including administration, adoption, family preservation and permanency plans, financing, legal procedures, out-of-home placement and foster care, and termination of parental rights); (6) family law (including custody and visitation, and domestic abuse); (7) general children, youth, and families (including administration and family support); (8) juvenile justice (including administration, disposition, financing, institutions, jurisdiction, procedures, records, and weapons offenses); (9) substance abuse and control (including license revocation and suspension, penalties, prevention and education, and tobacco use control); (10) welfare reform and public assistance (including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, general assistance, and housing and homeless assistance); and (11) youth-at-risk (including collaborative initiatives, missing and homeless children, school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, and youth employment). (DR)

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1995 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Children, Youth and Family Issues

A publication of the
Children and Families Program

National Conference of State Legislatures
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December 1995

The National Conference of State Legislatures serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths, and territories. NCSL was created in January 1975 from the merger of three organizations that served or represented state legislatures.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization with three objectives:

- To improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures;
- To foster interstate communication and cooperation; and
- To ensure states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

The conference has offices in Denver, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

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FOREWORD

The Children and Families Program within the National Conference of State Legislatures is dedicated to providing policymakers with information critical to bettering the lives of America's families. The *1995 State Legislative Summary: Children, Youth and Family Issues* is one of many products and services the program offers.

Published annually since 1983, this book is a compilation of summaries of newly enacted state legislation affecting children and families. It documents legislative activity, emerging trends and innovative policies in the states, information essential to effective policymaking.

As public concern heightens regarding this nation's primary domestic problems—child abuse, juvenile delinquency and welfare—lawmakers are recognizing that families play a key role in ameliorating or preventing some of these societal ills. They are looking at how to craft public policy in ways that strengthen and support families and protect at-risk children, while streamlining state services to be more effective, accountable and economically efficient. Many states have made progress in these and related issues.

The summaries serve to profile this progress and provide the citations necessary for further, more in-depth research, making this publication an invaluable resource for legislators and legislative staff working in these policy areas.

In addition to the annual legislative summary, the Children and Families Program further offers a variety of other publications, research and technical assistance services to state legislators and their staff. We encourage constituents to contact the Denver office staff for a publications list or other additional information.

Representative Mona Martin, Iowa
Chair, Children, Families and Health Committee
Assembly on State Issues

Joni Wall, Louisiana
Staff Chair, Children, Families and Health Committee
Assembly on State Issues

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The Children and Families Program staff who worked on this publication include Georgina Bickford, Scott Groginsky, Barbara Houlik, Jay Kroshus, Dana Reichert, Shelley Smith, Jack Tweedie and Nina Williams-Mbengue. Georgina Bickford served as project coordinator and prepared the page layouts.

The publication was edited by Karen Fisher and Julie Lays. Consultants for the 1995 summary included Christine Cheff, Lorraine Dixon-Jones, Mary Fairchild and Adelia Yee.

INTRODUCTION

In an ongoing effort to document and track legislative activity on issues critical to children and families, the Children and Families Program of the National Conference of State Legislatures has for the past 12 years published an annual state legislative summary.

This publication is a joint effort between the program and the states. Every year, key legislative staff contacts provide NCSL with the latest enactments impacting children and families. After the bills are summarized, the state contacts review the work for accuracy.

In December, the book is distributed to legislative libraries and the chairs of committees dealing with children and family issues. The publication is also available for $25.00 through NCSL's marketing department.

For the majority of states the publication includes current year enactments. However, 10 legislatures — California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—hold sessions that run past the midsummer deadline. These states will have enactments that extend from July 1, 1994, through June 30, 1995.

Kentucky did not hold a regular session in 1995; consequently, there are no enactments included for that state.

NCSL appreciates any suggestions regarding this effort to provide a complete and comprehensive legislative summary. To comment, please call or write to NCSL's Children and Families Program in the Denver office.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
CASA	court appointed special advocate
CINA	child in need of assistance
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRC	crisis residential center
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
DUI	driving under the influence
FPS	family preservation services
GAL	guardian ad litem
GED	general equivalency diploma
HCR	House Concurrent Resolution
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HJR	House Joint Resolution
HR	House Resolution
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
JOBS	Job Opportunity and Basic Skills
PINS	person in need of supervision
SCR	Senate Concurrent Resolution
SJR	Senate Joint Resolution
SOS	Support Our Students
SR	Senate Resolution
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TCC	Transitional Child Care
UIFSA	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
URESA	Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act
VIEW	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Background Checks/Screening

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1067*
Requires criminal background checks, including fingerprint tests, for prospective adoptive parents.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1280*
Requires that the Child Care Providers Fund be spent first for criminal records checks then for training materials. Requires employees of a licensed child care facility to have a child abuse registry check. Penalizes individuals who give false information. Creates a criminal records check committee.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1310*
Requires criminal background checks for first-time applicant teachers and school administrators.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1267*
Expands the criminal record check for licensed child care or foster care facilities to include arrest records for serious crimes instead of records of those awaiting trial. Prohibits the state from using an arrest record to deny, revoke or terminate an applicant unless it investigates. Allows the state to ask for an exemption under certain circumstances.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1268*
Adds an FBI check to the Trustline registration system for child care providers who are license-exempt. Removes certain publicly funded Trustline exemptions. Prohibits private employment agencies from placing nonTrustline providers in parents' homes, instead of prohibiting referrals.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 38*
Authorizes charitable organizations to obtain criminal history checks on employees or volunteers who have unsupervised access to children.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 30-42—Requires employment screening for personnel in programs for children and youth.

Sec. 44—Directs that the central abuse hotline is not to be used for employment screening, restricts access and removes the authorization to collect fees for employment screening.

Sec. 47, 50-51—Creates two levels of employment screening, procedures for denial or termination, exemptions from disqualification, payment, confidentiality and sharing of personnel information. Prohibits the human services agency from classifying child abuse reports or from using previous classifications for employment screening. Transfers the responsibility for criminal history checks to law enforcement.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-614, Sec. 5, 107*
Expands the department's access to criminal history and driver's license information in its investigation of child abuse and neglect cases.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 59-1995*
Authorizes law enforcement agencies to release criminal history records concerning convictions of child pornography possession.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 93*
Expands access to the state child abuse registry to the state board governing treatment of sex offenders and to local governments to screen child care providers and for grievance and arbitration purposes. Requires child abuse registry checks for employees of Medicaid home service providers.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1171*
Adds abandonment to the list of crimes included in criminal history information systems. Authorizes certain fees for processing information and exempts law enforcement agencies from charges.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 160*
Requests a feasibility study on requiring criminal background checks on people seeking a position of supervisory or disciplinary authority over children.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 298*
Requires a criminal background investigation for an adult residing in a foster care home or child care home.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3, Sec. 53*
Requires the state to include child maltreatment reports in background checks on school employees and teacher license applicants.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 10*
Authorizes release of child abuse records to employers for background checks.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 227*
Authorizes the release of criminal history records to public agencies with jurisdiction to investigate child abuse or neglect cases and to arrange for protective services.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 256, Sec. 8-14*
Adds certain sex crimes against children to the central repository for criminal records.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 507, Sec. 23.26*
Requires state and local criminal history and fingerprint checks for foster care providers. Requires national checks for certain providers. Prohibits foster care services by providers determined unfit, based on the check. Lists crimes to be checked. Provides for confidentiality, limited immunity for compliant employers and the right to challenge a license denial.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 222*
Deletes foster family homes from required criminal history checks on job applicants. Requires a criminal history check for any adult residing in a family day care home. Allows for release of information to another child care facility or day care center considering the individual for employment.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 6*
Provides for hearings where the custodial parent or the person responsible for the child can challenge the agency finding that the child is or is not at risk of abuse or neglect.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 95*
Prohibits people who have been reported for child abuse or convicted of certain crimes from serving on a foster care review board or working for the foster care division or the governor. Requires records check.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 126*
Provides for criminal background checks for employees of schools and child welfare agencies.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 325*
Permits organizations providing youth services to require employees or volunteers to undergo background checks and attend youth protection training programs.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 920, Sec. 7*
Eliminates limits on categories of criminal history information that the department may access. Expands the list of people subject to criminal history checks and those with access to criminal history information. Expands the list of people to whom the department may release criminal history information. Authorizes the state to charge a fee for criminal history checks.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 57*
Gives the State Office of Education access to law enforcement information that it can provide to local school districts for employee background checks.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 109*
Makes employees and volunteers of youth programs subject to background checks. Requires checks for owners, directors and members of governing bodies of child placement and foster care services.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 11, 26*
Requires the Division of Family Services to have direct access to criminal background information for child abuse screenings and investigations. Specifies the scope of court-ordered investigations performed at the home of a noncustodial parent or relative in which a child is to be placed.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 401*
Clarifies that background checks apply to board members and others who work with agency children. Expands the definition of "person" to include legal entities.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 809*
Adds several localities to the list of school jurisdictions that are authorized to fingerprint and conduct criminal history checks on school employees.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 29*
Requires job applicants who will have unsupervised contact with children to certify that they have no criminal record.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 4, 6*
Requires fingerprinting of child care or foster care license applicants, their employees or others with unsupervised access to children when they have not resided in the state for the previous three years. Requires that fingerprint costs be paid by the licensee, with an exception. Requires training in child development and child protection for administrative law judges who preside over license denial, suspension or revocation hearings.

Court Procedures and Considerations

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 545*
Requires all court orders that remove a child from his or her home to contain a finding that the best interests of the child were considered and that reasonable efforts were made or were inappropriate due to emergency or unsafe conditions.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 533, Sec. 4*
Authorizes the court to issue an order for emergency custody to remove a juvenile from a parent's or guardian's custody if there is probable cause to believe that immediate removal is necessary to protect the juvenile's health or physical well-being.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1337*
Provides that the "best interests of the child" standard be applied in human services and juvenile court recommendations regarding placement of abused and neglected children.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 688*
Requires the Judicial Council to collect and analyze information regarding allegations of child abuse or neglect made during family law proceedings and to include the topic in family law training programs.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 900*
Makes guardianship a placement option at any point in the dependency process or as a permanent placement upon termination of parental rights.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1007*
Clarifies criteria to appeal juvenile dependency cases.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 3 and Chap. 152, Sec. 6*
Authorizes restraining orders against juveniles for domestic violence.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 10*
Divides juvenile matters in superior court into civil matters and delinquency.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 6-7—Outlines grounds for taking a child alleged to be dependent into custody. Requires a legal review before an emergency shelter hearing and requires return of the child if probable cause does not exist. Requires parental notification and participation in the hearing and specifies deadlines.

Sec. 12—Requires that evidence presented in a dependency hearing that is based on an anonymous call be independently corroborated. Extends rules of discovery to parents.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 427*
Expands the hearsay exception to child witnesses for acts of child or sexual abuse.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 503*
Provides for taking deposition from examining physician in child molestation and sex abuse cases.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-614, Sec. 2-10*
Revises procedures for temporary custody hearings to require that the department clearly show factual basis for the action and to allow petitioners more flexible participation.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-674*
Provides that testimony by child victims in sexual assault cases be conducted via closed-circuit television.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 444*
Authorizes the court to designate a referring agency's staff as the intake officer in certain child protection cases. Authorizes a pilot program to implement this process.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 503*
Allows a child abuse victim to bring a civil action against the perpetrator up to 10 years after reaching the age of majority.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 754*
Specifies that defendants accused of sex crimes against children are not entitled to compel the victim to submit to medical or psychological exams. Requires a hearing on such requests and relieves the victim from attending.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 755*
Requires that court orders for a child victim's medical, psychological or other records be specific and that a hearing be held to ensure that the records are not sought to harass the victim.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1095, Sec. 3*
Requires a child who is the subject of an emergency removal in certain proceedings to be taken into state custody.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 144*
Prohibits judges from staying the entry of a judgment and granting probation for certain sexual offenses involving children under 16.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 570*
Requires that administrative appeal hearings be postponed until after child-in-need-of-assistance proceedings are completed.

MA *1994 Mass. Acts, Chap. 352*
Allows the court to provide alternative ways to take child testimony.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 187, Sec. 1*
Extends immunity to any person working in a local welfare or state human services agency.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 242*
Creates a presumption that conditions leading to out-of-home placement will not be corrected based on parental noncompliance with court orders.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 259, Art. 4*
Limits the right of a child subject and the child's parents to obtain a copy of a videotape made as part of a child abuse evaluation or investigation. Prohibits the release of videotapes without a court order.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174*
Sec. 211.032—Requires a court hearing within three days upon request of any party when a child is taken into custody as a victim of abuse.

Sec. 455.060, 504-505, 516—Allows the court to issue a protective order when a child is being stalked. Allows child protection orders to be extended.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 13*
Allows hearsay statements of abused youth at certain hearings.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 564*
Sec. 1, 3—Prohibits a child from being removed from the home based solely on an unsubstantiated allegation of abuse.

Sec. 4—Prohibits compelling parents to keep child abuse proceedings confidential. Exempts the media from liability for reporting facts made by a family member if confidentiality is maintained.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 320*
Prohibits releasing a child who is in protective custody to a parent who has been convicted of child abuse, unless evidence is presented that the child will not be harmed.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 222*
Recodifies procedures for guardians and guardianship hearings, including the physical and safety needs of the minor.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*
Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings or who is in violation of orders issued under child support, paternity, termination of parental rights, family offenses or child protection cases.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*
Sets conditions for issuing certain orders requiring conditions of behavior in child support, paternity, guardianship, custody or family offense proceedings.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 328*
Adds removal from parental or guardian custody to court's authority when a child is adjudicated as abused or neglected.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353, Sec. 14*
Requires convicted defendants to pay attorney fees and medical and psychological costs in child abuse cases.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 766*
Creates a procedure to issue an emergency protective order for children in danger of being abused.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 6*
Provides for hearings where the custodial parent or the person responsible for the child can challenge the agency finding that the child is or is not at risk of abuse or neglect.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 11, 28*
Allows children to testify outside of the courtroom if the child is medically incapable of testifying in open court. Allows evidence of false child abuse reporting as admissible in a suit regarding the terms of conservatorship of a child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 1*
Provides for expedited hearings and appeals in certain cases where out-of-home placement is necessary due to immediate danger to the physical health or safety of the child.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302*
Sec. 25, 27-28, 30-31—Establishes deadlines for shelter, pretrial, adjudication and dispositional hearings. Requires foster parents to receive notice of the adjudication hearing.

Sec. 34—Requests the Supreme Court to promulgate rules allowing the use of retired or pro tempore judges for one year to render dispositions for children in protective custody for 18 months or longer.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 7*
Revises administrative procedures regarding appeals in child abuse cases. Extends certain rights to the appellant, grants authorities to the hearing officer and prohibits child victims and their siblings from being subpoenaed or from testifying. Grants enforcement authority to the court.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 76*
Allows the statement of a physically abused child to be admissible in dependency and criminal proceedings.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 4, 6*
Requires training in child development and child protection for administrative law judges who preside over license denial, suspension or revocation hearings.

Definitions/Offenses/Penalties

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 54*
Defines assault by a person over 18 on a child between 10 and 16 as assault in the third degree if the injury requires medical treatment.

AR	*1995 Ark. Acts, Act 804* Excludes reasonable use of corporal punishment, inflicted by parent or guardian, from the definition of abuse.
AR	*1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1291* Changes the definition of wife abuse to assault on a family or household member.
CA	*1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 688* Allows the court to impose monetary sanctions when false accusations of child abuse or neglect are made in child custody cases.
CO	*1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 1* Changes the language defining domestic abuse to cover "any person" being victimized.
CO	*1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 238* Makes it first degree murder for any person in a position of trust to cause the death of a child.
DE	*Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 266* Classifies murder by abuse or neglect as a criminal offense.
FL	*1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 43-45* Adds abandoned child to the list of children who must be reported. Eliminates definitions for "confirmed" and "unfounded report" from child abuse reporting. Changes the name of the registry to hotline.
GA	*1995 Ga. Laws, Act 433* Defines the crime of cruelty to children and increases the minimum penalties for cruelty to children, child molestation and sexual exploitation.
HI	*1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 171* Delays the running of the statute of limitations for any crime against a person under 18 until the victim turns 18.
ID	*1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 276* Allows a civil claim for falsely alleging child abuse. Prohibits investigations of child abuse without the name of the reporting person and in cases of physical abuse, more than one corroborating medical authority. Allows disclosure of individuals who falsely report.
IL	*1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-631* Prevents a parent from inheriting a child's estate if a parent neglected or failed to support the child.
IN	*1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 59-1995* Increases the penalty for battery of a child less than age 14 who sustains serious bodily injury, if committed by a person at least age 18.
IA	*1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 87* Prohibits bail in cases of felonious child endangerment.
IA	*1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182* Requires the court—in considering the termination of a parent's rights—to find that services to a child-in-need-of-assistance would not correct the conditions within a reasonable time and that the abuse or neglect constitutes a significant risk to the child's life.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 444* Specifies that inability to provide for a child due to financial limitations does not constitute neglect.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 765*
Adds grandparents and grandchildren under the definition of family violence.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 227*
Increases child victim's age from 12 to 16 years in parental child abduction cases.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 2, Sec. 15, 19, 32*
Classifies certain crimes against children as violent, and allows for increased sentences. Expands the definitions of criminal sexual conduct and indecent exposure to include acts in the presence of children.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 160, Sec. 568.030, 032*
Creates two new crimes of child abandonment.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 564, Sec. 2*
Expands the definition of "harm to a child's welfare" to include inducing a child to give untrue testimony about child abuse.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 320*
Increases the penalty for child abuse.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 443*
Sets minimum and maximum fixed sentences for felonies; includes crimes against children, such as kidnapping, child abuse and sex offenses. Requires offenders to serve the minimum sentence. Creates a "super" habitual criminal category that applies to certain sex and other violent offenses.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 255*
Conforms the definition of abuse under the medical profession's authority to maintain custody of a suspected child abuse victim with the definition in the juvenile code.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 140*
Makes female genital mutilation a crime.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 85*
Expands the definition of domestic abuse to include endangered children.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151*
Sec. 1—Defines child abuse as an act or failure to act that causes or creates imminent risk of physical or mental injury or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child. Also includes serious physical neglect. Provides that parental action taken for sincere religious beliefs shall not constitute child abuse. Creates separate categorization for reports of child abuse by school employees.

Sec. 5—Requires county agency to determine that a report was unfounded if the court makes a specific finding that child abuse did not occur.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 132*
Adds killing a child to the list of aggravating factors considered in imposing the death penalty.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 77*
Replaces caretaker with parent or legal guardian in defining exemptions to abuse or neglect of a disabled child.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 5, 22, 33*
Defines parental educational neglect as clear and convincing evidence that the child has failed to make educational progress, is two or more years behind his/her age group expectations in one or more basic skills and is not receiving remediation. Prohibits children from being removed from a natural parent on the basis of educational neglect.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 681*
Prohibits corporal punishment by school personnel as a means of discipline, with certain exceptions. Defines "corporal punishment" and clarifies its parameters. Absolves school personnel from civil liability when acting in compliance.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 17*
Eliminates the statute of limitations for homicide by abuse.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 127*
Clarifies the definition of harassment of a child and allows a parent or guardian to petition for an order of protection to restrain a person from harassing a child.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 156*
Updates the language and clarifies the definition of luring a person with a developmental disability.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 250*
Adds criminal abandonment to the definition of crimes against children or other persons.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311, Sec. 23*
Clarifies the definition of an abandoned child.

Financing

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 358*
Authorizes counties to donate money for maintenance of residential group homes for abused or neglected children.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 443*
Clarifies the state's financial responsibility for the administrative costs of child protective services.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 505*
Requires the state to produce license plates and earmark a portion of the fees to support missing or exploited children.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 231*
Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 206*
Establishes child abuse prevention license plates. Earmarks a certain portion of the license plate fee for the prevention fund.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 6*
Prohibits counties without a child abuse prevention and protection plan from receiving funds for child and family services. Allows the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to spend such funds in counties without a plan. Requires the plan to provide information concerning local child abuse prevention and investigation efforts.

Legal Representation/Ad Litems/Special Advocates

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 103*
Allows a nonattorney to be appointed guardian ad litem (GAL) in child abuse and neglect cases.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 807*
Requires the state to pay legal fees for representing children in child protection proceedings.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 405*
Revises the factors a court must consider in determining parental rights and responsibilities. The safety and well-being of the child are given priority in decisions about primary residence. Deletes the requirement that face-to-face contact between a child and a GAL occur in the home or foster home. Directs the state courts to develop a program to train, supervise, certify and assign GALs. The report is due to the legislature by Jan. 15, 1997. Makes other changes regarding training, certification, powers and responsibilities. Allows children to address the court personally.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 188*
Requires that a court-appointed attorney for a child, paid for by a local agency, be under contract with the state, with an exception.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174*
Sec. 455.050—Allows the court to appoint a GAL or court appointed special advocate (CASA), pursuant to the issuance of an adult protective order if the court finds both parents have been abusive, or the custodial parent alleges that visitation would damage the child.

Sec. 455.508, 513—Requires a guardian ad litem (GAL) or court appointed special advocate (CASA) when an ex parte order of child protection is issued.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 305*
Requires GALs to meet with the child and others involved in the case a minimum number of times.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 206, Sec. 4*
Permits any party to petition the court for an order to remove a GAL on the grounds that the GAL has a conflict.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 207*
Provides for the appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL) for certain children 14 years and older.

NC *1995 N.C. Laws, Chap. 324, Sec. 21.13*
Limits the appointment length of GALs. Requires that an attorney appointed in addition to the GAL continue until after disposition.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353, Sec. 12,19*
Requires the appointment of special advocates to represent children in cases of abuse or neglect. Requires training for special advocates.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 766*
Adds special advocates to the list of those required to report child abuse.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 15*
Specifies when GALs and attorneys ad litem are to be appointed in termination of parental rights cases. Requires attorneys ad litem to be appointed in cases when it is deemed in the best interests of the child. Specifies the duties of the attorney ad litem.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 11*
Establishes a pool of GALs and attorneys ad litem for child protective services in counties with a population of 2.8 million or more. Sets standards for pool membership.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 21*
Requires the appointment of a GAL on the dates that the child is removed from the home or the petition is filed, whichever occurs first.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 297*
Clarifies administrative procedures for the appointment of a guardian or limited guardian. Revokes any powers of attorney upon appointment of a guardian or limited guardian, with certain exceptions. Includes death of the incapacitated person as a reason for the guardian to petition the court to settle the account, and allows the court to appoint a GAL to review the petition.

Organization/Oversight

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 126*
Requires detailed reports concerning the investigation and outcomes of child protective services cases to be provided to state executive and legislative officials.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1336*
Expands the membership of the Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission, the methods of disbursing funds and commission duties including an authorization to review children's deaths.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 11*
Requires the state to study and report on case management and investigation procedures in child abuse reporting.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 8-9, 11, 16-17, 20—Clarifies child protective services and certain procedures, including deadlines for case plans.

Sec. 15—Changes the timeline for child abuse prevention plans.

Sec. 27—Creates a task force on family safety to examine: (1) the child welfare system and (2) issues of coordination between child protection, domestic violence agencies and law enforcement.

Sec. 29—Requires the state to establish model programs administered by law enforcement and human services agencies for information sharing and child abuse investigation.

ME *1995 Me. Resolve 29*
Directs the attorney general to review existing requirements for reporting suspected sexual or physical abuse of minors.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 25*
Adds the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 386*
Places the citizen review boards under the control of the Supreme Court, rather than youth courts, establishes member immunity and allows the state 17 days to provide written responses to a board's recommendations.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, A.R. 129*
Designates April 1995 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 231*
Creates a block grant program for children and family services that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 116*
Directs the State Child Protection team to serve as a child fatality review panel. Specifies duties and provides for access to records.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151*
Sec. 3—Requires county agencies to submit annual reports to the state department detailing the operation of its child protective services.

Sec. 6—Authorizes county agencies to purchase protective services, excluding the receipt and assessment of child abuse reports.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 255*
Establishes a multidisciplinary team to review child abuse cases and to coordinate investigations, prosecution and victim services. Creates an 18-member state fatality review committee to develop protocols concerning reporting, investigations, data collection and the operation of local review teams. Requires the committee to make policy recommendations to the legislature and the governor. Authorizes the creation of local review teams to provide oversight and to assist in child fatality investigations. Establishes additional reporting and investigation procedures for child fatalities that occur before age 6.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 1*
Provides for expedited hearings and appeals in certain cases where out-of-home placement is necessary due to immediate danger to the physical health or safety of the child.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 71*
Allows the attorney general to establish additional child protection teams. Expands the membership of the advisory board for the child protection teams.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 144*
Creates a broad-based task force to recommend a comprehensive policy for children and families who need services due to poverty, dependency, disability, abuse or neglect. Requires recommendations on interagency communication, collaboration, reallocation of funds and changing the budget process.

Prevention/Treatment/Training

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 47*
Requires a feasibility study on distributing child protection network information packages to municipalities.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 238, Sec. 1*
Authorizes a healthy families infant abuse prevention program through hospital-based assessment and home outreach.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 4*
Creates a task force to develop an educational program on the identification and reporting of child abuse for health care professionals.

FL *1995 Fla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 1—Makes it a felony to lure or entice a child for an illegal purpose.

Sec. 22, 26, 28—Requires that hotline counselors receive training to encourage callers to provide their identity. Directs the state to assess training curriculum for certain human services and law enforcement staff.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-614, Sec. 55.76*

Establishes the Healthy Families Initiative to identify at-risk families and provide family support services to reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Allows department to contract with statewide child abuse prevention organizations to develop the program.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 888*

Adds child sexual abuse to the post-separation family violence relief law. Creates a presumption that no parent with a history of family violence can be awarded custody. Requires clear evidence that a parent has sexually abused the child in order to prohibit visitation.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3, Sec. 58*

Establishes a pilot project on early intervention for young children at risk of becoming sex offenders.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 4, Sec. 32*

Requires child abuse hotlines to be established.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 7, Sec. 1*

Requires that the training for interviewers of maltreated children include a child development framework and information on working with children of color and special needs.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 739, Sec. 1*

Directs child welfare agencies to consider the child's safety in family reunification efforts.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., File 152*

Urges school districts to train personnel to recognize and report child abuse. Urges colleges and universities to incorporate similar training into teacher preparation programs.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83*

- *Sec. 239*—Requires the state to place preventive services in areas with a high rate of child abuse, neglect and foster care placements and to give community-based organizations priority when awarding contracts.

Sec. 243—Requires that staff assigned to child protection have the qualifications and training required by regulations.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 206*

Establishes child abuse prevention license plates. Earmarks a certain portion of the license plate fee for the prevention fund.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353, Sec. 19*

Requires training on juvenile law and child abuse for judges, attorneys and special advocates.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 128*

Requires training on child abuse and domestic violence for police officers.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 6*

Establishes a training and certification program for child protective service workers. Requires county agencies to provide general protective services. Defines general protective services to include assessment and delivery of services to ensure children's well-being and to preserve and stabilize family life where appropriate.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 511*

Requires a child fatality review team in each judicial district to review all deaths of children age 17 and younger. Creates a 16-member state team to review the reports from local teams, develop training and data collection protocols and assess child fatality prevention efforts.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 507*
Requires the district and county court judges to complete training on child abuse, sexual assault and family violence. Requires the training to be completed during the first term or before the beginning of another term.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 559*
Requires the department to instruct case investigators to document episodes of domestic violence, including elder, spouse and child abuse. Requires that written information on community treatment services be distributed to those victims.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.05*
Expands the number of agencies involved in developing parenting classes and specifies program topics that include instruction on the necessity of physical and emotional safety for children.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 664*
Requires training on violence prevention, including child abuse, for juvenile probation departments, boards and children in custody.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 6*
Prohibits counties without a child abuse prevention and protection plan from receiving funds for child and family services. Allows the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to spend such funds in counties without a plan. Requires the plan to provide information concerning local child abuse prevention and investigation efforts.

Registries and Records

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 176*
Expands the list of individuals allowed access to child abuse and neglect records. Outlines a procedure for people not given specific access to request records that are edited to protect the identity of the parties involved. Emphasizes confidentiality. Requires legislative oversight of rules on confidentiality and the release of records.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 266*
Provides access to child abuse records for preadoption investigations. Requires editing of reports of child welfare agencies to protect the identity of the reporter, the victim, the victim's parents and the subject of the investigation.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1341, Sec. 5*
Eliminates unsubstantiated information from inclusion in the central registry and changes the guidelines for disclosure.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 43-46*
Changes the name of the abuse registry to central abuse hotline. Authorizes record retention of reported abuse for seven years. Removes requirements for classifications of report outcomes. Eliminates definitions for "confirmed" and "unfounded report" from child abuse reporting. Allows access to reports by parents and custodians and those alleged to have caused the abuse. Requires a court order for certain departments to obtain records.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 427*
Revises the state's central child abuse registry. Excludes as victims children who in good faith were treated by spiritual means. Adds sexual abuse to acts covered by the registry. Requires that accusations be classified as confirmed, unconfirmed or unfounded. Sets up notice and administrative hearing procedures for accused child abusers. Provides for people to determine if their names are in the registry. Grants the department and its officials civil and criminal immunity for providing information from the registry.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 93*
Expands access to the child abuse registry to state and local government agencies that provide care to children and for purposes of certifying sex offender treatment programs and in-state personnel proceedings.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Gives out-of-state child protection and child-placing agencies access to child abuse information when those agencies are investigating or treating a possible abuser or making foster care and adoption placement evaluations, respectively.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 444*
Requires that information on false or unfounded reports of child abuse be forwarded to the district attorney for possible criminal action.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 625*
Extends the time period that records of false reports must be maintained before they are destroyed. Changes the language of findings related to false or unjustified reports.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1251*
Prohibits expungement of sex offense convictions.

MI *1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 393*
Grants records access to the children's ombudsman and requires notice to a person named as a perpetrator in the registry.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 146*
Requires that records be destroyed when the report is unfounded.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 10*
Expands the list of individuals and agencies allowed to access child abuse records.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353*
Sec. 9—Authorizes the state to share information with other professionals about child abuse cases. Requires notification of school principals of confirmed reports of child abuse. Provides for confidentiality.

Sec. 11—Establishes a central registry for child abuse.

Sec. 18—Adds the governor and federal officials to the list of individuals authorized to access child abuse records; requires confidentiality.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151*
Sec. 2—Establishes a file of unfounded reports awaiting expungement in central registry. Requires unfounded reports to be expunged from the central registry within 120 days.

Sec. 3—Requires the department to expunge all identifying information from child abuse reports when the child victim reaches 23 years of age. Requires the maintenance of a subfile that includes perpetrators' names. Allows prospective adoptive parents access to child abuse report files.

Sec. 5—Requires a county agency to determine that a report was unfounded if the court makes a specific finding that child abuse did not occur.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 147*
Allows release of child abuse and neglect case records to the tribal agency providing child welfare services under contract with the department.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 411*
Prohibits the release of a child's mental health records to a person accused of child abuse or neglect.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 878*
Creates a state fatality review committee to develop protocols concerning reporting, investigations, data collection and the operation of local review teams.

Reporting/Investigations

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 126*
Requires detailed reports concerning the investigation and outcomes of child protective services cases to be provided to state executive and legislative officials.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1336*
Expands the duties of the Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission to include reviewing children's deaths.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1341*
Clarifies responsibilities for child abuse reporting. Adds judges and prosecuting attorneys to the list of mandatory reporters. Allows reporters to consider religious beliefs when deciding whether or not to report.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 242, Sec. 7*
Establishes a child fatality review panel to examine all deaths of children receiving state services.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 11*
Requires the state to study and report on case management and investigation procedures in child abuse reporting.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 256*
Establishes a child death review commission and regional review panels. Requires confidentiality.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 2-3—Directs law enforcement agencies to take the lead in criminal investigations of child abuse. Requires that certain abuse reports be sent immediately to law enforcement.

Sec. 12—Requires that evidence presented in a dependency hearing that is based on an anonymous call, be independently corroborated. Extends rules of discovery to parents.

Sec. 22—Requires certain reporters to provide their names when reporting child abuse and maintains confidentiality. Requires the state to use an electronic caller identification system and to advise hotline callers of confidentiality.

Sec. 29—Requires the state to establish model programs administered by law enforcement and human services agencies for the sharing of information and child abuse investigations.

Sec. 43-45—Eliminates definitions for "confirmed" and "unfounded report" from child abuse reporting. Changes the name of the registry to hotline.

Sec. 44-46—Removes requirements for written confirmation from reporters within 48 hours and for certain warnings to those investigated. Allows access to reports by parents and custodians and by those alleged to have caused the abuse.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 275*
Requires an investigation whenever child abuse is alleged during a divorce proceeding. Makes it a crime to provide false information.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chapters 328 and 329*
Exempts ordained ministers from reporting child abuse under specified circumstances.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-614*
Sec. 1—Requires the state agency to establish a multidisciplinary team to review every child's death who is in the agency's care, receiving services from the agency or subject of a child abuse investigation. Gives the team full access to agency information. Requires the team to make recommendations about how the agency can reduce deaths caused by abuse or neglect.

Sec. 21—Requires the department to establish and implement a standardized child endangerment risk assessment protocol.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 267-1995*
Permits dentists who report suspected abuse and neglect to receive a follow-up report from the child protection agency.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 147*
Sec. 1-2—Establishes a multidisciplinary child death review team as an independent state agency. Provides that the team is to review deaths of children under 6 and child abuse investigations involving the death of a child.

Sec. 4—Prohibits the identification of the reporter of child abuse to the parents during an investigation.

Sec. 5—Establishes child abuse assessment projects to replace current investigatory practices in five areas. Sets the purposes of assessment as ensuring the safety of children and providing services to the family to enhance family strengths and address weaknesses. Limits the cases forwarded to the central child abuse registry to those that involve great risk or significant injury.

Sec. 7—Requests the attorney general to develop a proposal for multidisciplinary child abuse intervention and prosecution teams.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 444*
Requires that information on false or unfounded reports of child abuse be forwarded to the district attorney for possible criminal action. Requires child protection teams to assign a level of risk to reports of child abuse and to immediately investigate high and intermediate risk levels. Directs that resources be allocated in order of greatest to lowest risk of harm.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 893*
Increases the age of children whose deaths must be investigated.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 187*
Sec. 2—Authorizes the recovery of costs and attorney's fees for falsely reporting child abuse.

Sec. 3-9—Outlines information to be collected and interviewing methods to be used during an investigation. Requires that determinations be based on a preponderance of evidence. Adds the alleged offender and agency director to notification requirements and defines conflict of interest.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 211.151*
Allows law enforcement authorities to fingerprint or photograph victims of abuse or neglect with consent of the judge.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, Sec. 455.513*
Requires the state to conduct investigations and provide services in certain child protective order cases.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 146*
Requires that unfounded reporting records be destroyed.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 6*
Expands the list of people required to report child abuse.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 564, Sec. 3*
Requires that an investigation develop independent, corroborative and attributable information to confirm anonymous reports before proceeding.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 34*
Requires the state to notify schools of its findings in child abuse investigations against school employees. Requires schools to remove any references to the complaint from personnel records when the complaint is unfounded or unsubstantiated.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 94*
Adds physician assistants to the list of people required to report child abuse.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 465*
Authorizes the notification of parents of children in an early childhood facility when the facility is involved in an investigation for child abuse or neglect.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 472*
Replaces the term "investigation" with "assessment" and the term "probable cause" with "a determination of whether services are required." Requires the state child protection team to enter a determination in all cases of suspected institutional abuse or neglect.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 223*
Expands the records accessible to the child death review board and increases board membership.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 231*
Creates a procedure to investigate abuse or neglect in mental health day treatment programs.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353*
Requires a multidisciplinary approach to investigating sexual abuse and serious physical abuse. Outlines the responsibilities and composition of multidisciplinary teams. Expands reporting requirements. Makes employers liable for interfering with an individual's duty to report child abuse. Makes false reporting a crime. Requires the state to adopt a priority system for investigating child abuse. Outlines the elements of an investigation and establishes procedures for different findings. Requires an explanation of investigative procedures and rights to parents. Provides for child welfare personnel to access mental health records in a child abuse investigation.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 766*
Adds special advocates to the list of mandatory reporters.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151*
Sec. 5—Requires the county agency to implement a state-approved risk assessment process. Requires completion of child abuse investigation reports within 60 days. Requires a child care provider to implement a supervision plan to protect all children in its care immediately upon notification of a child abuse investigation of an employee or administrator.

Sec. 6—Provides for hearings where the custodial parent or person responsible for the child can challenge the agency finding that the child is or is not at risk of abuse or neglect. Commissions a study of false reports of child abuse.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 511*
Requires a child fatality review team in each judicial district to review all deaths of children age 17 and younger. Creates a 16-member state team to review the reports from local teams, develop training and data collection protocols and assess child fatality prevention efforts.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 559*
Requires the department to adopt rules requiring investigators to document domestic violence, including elder, spouse and child abuse.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 87, 100*
Requires individuals whose personal communications may otherwise be privileged, such as attorneys, the clergy and mental health professionals, to report abuse and neglect. Specifies procedures for investigation of abuse and neglect in state facilities and schools.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 878*
Creates a state fatality review committee to develop protocols concerning reporting, investigations, data collection and the operation of local review teams. Requires the committee to make policy recommendations to the legislature and the governor. Authorizes the creation of local review teams to provide oversight and to assist in child fatality investigations. Establishes additional reporting and investigation procedures for child fatalities that occur before age 6.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 2-3*
Requires reports of serious abuse to be investigated jointly by a law enforcement agency and the department. Requires the department to document instances where the law enforcement agency is unwilling or unable to conduct a joint investigation.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 9*
Requires the parents or relatives of a minor taken into protective custody to be furnished with a telephone number, rather than the location of the minor.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 499*
Creates the State Child Fatality Review Team to review deaths resulting from violent or unnatural causes, sudden infant deaths and children's deaths where the cause cannot be determined. Provides for confidentiality.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 810*
Adds a number of professionals who serve as court-referred mediators to the list of mandatory reporters.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 204*
Requires the development of a consistent review process of the deaths of all children in certain state residential facilities.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311, Sec. 17*
Expands the list of child abuse and neglect reporters to include county coroner, medical examiner and law enforcement. Requires a report to the legislature on the effectiveness of the risk assessment process used in investigating child abuse and neglect referrals.

Sex Offender Registries

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 129, Sec. 16-17*
Requires that sex offenders register annually and specifies the county jurisdiction to try offenders who fail to register.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 248*
Allows information on sex offenders to be released to citizens.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 142, Sec. 6-10*
Clarifies registration requirements including the length of registration, the types of offenders required to register and the list of individuals and agencies allowed to access registration data.

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IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 63-1995*
Adds sexual misconduct with a minor to the list of offenses for which registration is required. Extends the offender's duty to register to 10 years after the date the offender was released from prison, placed on parole or placed on probation, whichever occurred last.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 146*
Requires that those convicted of crimes against minors, sexual exploitation and sexually violent offenses be registered with a central registry and with the sheriff of the county of residence. Registration must occur at the time of release and be verified annually. People required to register must inform registries of any move for 10 years. Requires registration for sexually violent predators to be verified every three months until the court or agency determines that it should end. Creates the crime of failing to register. States that registry information is a confidential law enforcement record to be released only to protect the public from a specific person.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 605*
Requires sex offenders to notify school and park officials.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 928*
Changes the agency that registers sex offenders. Requires notification to schools and area residents, and allows other notification mechanisms including bumper stickers or clothing. Sets the time period for registration. Provides a procedure for requesting exemption from registration.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1303*
Deletes references to certain offenses from sex offender notification requirements applicable to probation and parole.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 142*
Requires notification to the local law enforcement agency of the release of a convicted child sexual offender. Includes offenders granted probation before judgment, those found not criminally responsible and those convicted in other states.

MI *1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 355*
Applies sex offender registration to juveniles.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 256, Sec. 8-14*
Adds certain sex crimes against children to the central repository for criminal records. Creates an advisory council to develop different levels of risk guidelines for community notification when a sex offender is released on parole. Designates agencies to be notified at different risk levels.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 106*
Enacts the "Sex Offender Registration Act," which provides for sex offender registration and information exchange among law enforcement agencies.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 192*
Establishes sex offender registration. Creates a board to review cases prior to release to determine the risk of a repeat offense and the level of threat to the community. Creates a telephone hotline and a directory of sex offenders for the public and allows law enforcement to release information to vulnerable populations.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 545*
Establishes sex offender registration and makes failure to register a felony. Allows citizens and agencies that serve children access to the registry.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 139*
Requires mandatory registration of individuals who commit a crime against a child. Expands registration requirements for sex offenders and provides for public disclosure.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 142*
Requires registration within a specified time and outlines information to be obtained about sex offenders. Lists agencies allowed access to the registry. Makes it unlawful for sex offenders to work with children and for employers to employ registered sex offenders. Grants child care facilities and elementary schools access to the registry.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422, Sec. 59-64*
Requires registration of juvenile sex offenders. Stops community notification for juvenile sex offenders while the perpetrator remains under juvenile court supervision.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 123*
Extends sex offender registry to include crimes committed before the enactment of the registry and crimes committed in other states by current state residents.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 248*
Adds sex offenders who are convicted in a foreign country, under federal jurisdiction, or found not guilty by reason of insanity, to the mandatory registration list of convicted sex offenders. Specifies registration procedures.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 268*
Extends the registry of convicted sex offenders to include those convicted of an attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit a felony.

Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 18*
Prohibits minors from patronizing or being employed at adult entertainment businesses.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 29*
Creates the felony of indecent viewing or photography of a minor.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 337*
Expands the definition of "performance" as it relates to sexual exploitation of children to include all live and photographed performances.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 550*
Increases the crime of sexual solicitation of a child from a misdemeanor to a felony.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 578*
Increases first degree carnal abuse from a Class B to a Class C felony.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 909*
Permits termination of parental rights when a child is a victim of life endangering neglect or parental sexual exploitation.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1209*
Redefines sexual exploitation of children and the use of children in sexual performances.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1313*
Increases the criminal penalty for certain degrees of carnal abuse.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 129, Sec. 10-13, 15*
Clarifies that sex offender treatment includes monitoring, extends the date for standardized treatment and prohibits convicted sex offenders from receiving treatment from providers who do not meet standards.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 142, Sec. 1-4, 11-12*
Creates a new offense regarding sexual contact and increases the penalties for other sex crimes against children.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 124*
Classifies and defines "dangerous crime against a child" as a sex offense and imposes a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment without parole.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 279*
Prohibits sex offenders from residing or loitering near a school.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 427*
Expands hearsay exception for acts of child or sexual abuse to child witnesses.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 433*
Raises the age of children protected by statutory rape and child molestation laws from 14 to 16. Increases the minimum penalties for child molestation and sexual exploitation of children. Inserts gender neutral language into the definitions of statutory rape, child molestation and sexual exploitation.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-674*
Provides that testimony by child victims in sexual assault cases be conducted via closed-circuit television.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 59-1995*
Authorizes law enforcement agencies to release criminal history records concerning convictions of possession of child pornography. Increases the penalty for battery of a child less than age 14 who sustains serious bodily injury, if committed by a person at least age 18. Raises the age under child exploitation statutes from under age 16 to under age 18. Increases the penalty for disseminating or presenting harmful materials to minors or misrepresenting one's age to access materials harmful to minors.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 267-1995*
Authorizes agencies to file for the termination of parental rights of all the children of parents convicted of sexual misconduct with their own child or stepchild under age 6.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 86*
Prohibits juvenile or criminal agencies from dismissing a sexual abuse investigation based on the refusal by a victim or a witness to take a polygram test. Requires that victims and witnesses be notified that tests are voluntary and their results are not admitted in court.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 241*
Applies carnal knowledge of a juvenile offense to both genders for perpetrators and victims.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 295*
Prohibits the expungement or destruction of sex offender records where a child is involved.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 397*
Increases the penalty for aggravated rape when the victim is under age 12.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 754*
Specifies that defendants accused of sex crimes against children are not entitled to compel the victim to submit to medical or psychological exams. Requires a hearing on such requests and relieves the victim from attending.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 755*
Requires that court orders for a child victim's medical, psychological or other records be specific and that a hearing be held to ensure that the records are not sought to harass the victim.

LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 888* Adds child sexual abuse to the post-separation family violence relief law. Requires clear evidence that a parent has sexually abused the child in order to prohibit visitation.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 1251* Prohibits expungement of sex offense convictions.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 1265* Expands the prohibitions preventing sex offenders from working in settings with children.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 1290* Expands the sex offense list to include contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile when performing a sexually immoral act.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 1305* Creates a clearinghouse on child sexual abuse. Requires technical assistance to local agencies.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, SCR 153* Requests a study on the feasibility of mandatory prison sentences and conditional release for pedophiles.
ME	*1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 72* Expands the definition of indecent conduct and makes visual sexual aggression exposure against a child a crime.
ME	*1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 308* Requires a prosecutor who decides not to pursue an alleged child sexual abuse case to provide written justification to the alleged victim's parent or guardian, if requested.
ME	*1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 429* Outlines factors for the court to consider at sentencing to show an increased risk that a sex offender will repeat the offense. Factors include: victim is prepubescent, victim is same gender as offender, victim is total stranger to offender, utilization of other factors found by court to increase risk of repeat offenses.
ME	*1995 Me. Resolve 29* Directs the attorney general to review existing requirements for reporting suspected sexual or physical abuse of minors.
MD	*1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 133* Prohibits the exhibition or display of obscene materials to children under 18. Expands the definition to include film and computer discs.
MD	*1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 144* Prohibits judges from staying the entry of a judgment and granting probation for certain sexual offenses involving children under 16.
MI	*1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 444* Prohibits the possession, distribution or production of obscene material that involves minors.
MN	*1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3, Sec. 58* Establishes a pilot project on early intervention for young children at risk of becoming sex offenders.
MS	*1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 484* Revises and expands the definition of "sexual exploitation" of children and sets penalties for violations.

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 487*
Prohibits anyone over age 18 from committing sexually depraved acts against children under age 14 or mentally or physically incapacitated people, and sets penalties.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, Sec. 452.375, 400*
Prohibits awarding custody or visitation to a parent who has been found guilty or committed a felony sex offense against the child.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 369, Sec. 1*
Adds sexual intercourse without consent involving a child, incest involving a child and ritual abuse involving a child to the list of offenses that deprive a parent of the right to prevent an adoption by refusing to consent.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 564, Sec. 2*
Clarifies that sexual abuse does not include necessary touching of the genital areas for sanitary or health care purposes.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 196*
Establishes a rebuttable presumption in the best interests of the child to deny petitions by people seeking custody in divorce actions if they present any history of physical or sexual abuse toward the child or others. Includes conception of the child by sexual assault.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 252*
Requires that family members of the victim must be notified before a sex offender or offender convicted of child abuse is released.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 256*
Increases the penalties for certain sex crimes against minors and creates a sentence of lifetime supervision at the conclusion of incarceration, probation or parole.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 389*
Classifies sexual portrayal and distribution of material that shows a minor engaging in sexual conduct as felonies. Increases the penalty for child pornography.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 443*
Sets minimum and maximum fixed sentences for felonies including crimes against children, such as kidnapping, child abuse and sex offenses. Requires offenders to serve the minimum sentence. Creates a "super" habitual criminal category that applies to certain sex and other violent offenses.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 281*
Raises the age for consensual sex. Creates two classes of felonies for engaging in a sexual act with 13- to 15-year-olds when the defendant is a specified number of years older than the victim.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 135*
Allows the court to impose a longer period of probation and commitment to a sexual offender treatment program as sanctions for sex crimes against a minor.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 252*
Reauthorizes the Interdisciplinary Council on the Prevention of Juvenile Sex Offenses and specifies duties.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353*
Requires a multidisciplinary approach to investigating sexual abuse and serious physical abuse. Outlines the responsibilities and composition of multidisciplinary teams.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422, Sec. 1b, 75 and 128*
Creates the Department of Youth Authority (DYA) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and transfers responsibilities relating to delinquent children from the Children's Services Division to DYA. Establishes different levels of custody with the OYA, including five regional secure facilities. Directs OYA to conduct intake assessments and to prepare a reformation plan. Directs county commissioners to convene a local public safety council charged with developing a juvenile justice plan for the state, coordinating policy and developing a delinquency plan in consultation with the local commission on children and families. Requires OYA to decide on a definition of recidivism and to establish a recidivism reporting system for youth offenders.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 75*
Requires HIV testing of sex offenders at the victim's request.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 1*
Defines child abuse as an act or failure to act that causes or creates imminent risk of physical or mental injury or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child. Also includes serious physical neglect. Provides that parental action taken for sincere religious beliefs shall not constitute child abuse. Adds to the definition of sexual abuse to include the employment or persuasion of any child to engage in sexually explicit conduct.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 133*
Adds first degree child molestation to mandatory charges for 17-year-olds to be tried as adults.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 131*
Requires the court to suppress the name of a minor victim of rape, incest or sexual contact upon the request of the victim.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138*
Reduces good time for inmates convicted of a sex crime who refuse rehabilitative treatment.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 131*
Requires adults convicted of and children adjudicated for unlawful sexual contact, including child rape and incest, to undergo DNA testing.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 216*
Adds to the definition of sexual activity the lascivious exhibition of breasts, genitals or pubic areas under the statutes relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 353*
Requires standardized evaluation, treatment and continued monitoring of sex offenders. Creates a 12-member board to develop procedures for the evaluation of sex offenders and guidelines for treating and monitoring them. Requires the board to analyze the effectiveness of the program and allocate funding. Imposes a surcharge on those convicted of a sex offense to fund the program.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 256*
Establishes a five-year minimum period of community supervision for sex offenders. Requires sex offenders to undergo counseling. Prohibits offenders from participating in youth programs and from going near areas where children frequent, such as schools and video arcades.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 507*
Requires the district and county court judges to complete training on child abuse, sexual assault and family violence. Requires training to be completed during the first term or before the beginning of another term.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 602*
Allows the court to order a change in a conservator's visitation access for a conviction or deferred adjudication for sexual assault against a child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.06*
Requires child support agencies to refer cases to law enforcement that involve a pregnant child under age 17 resulting from sexual conduct that constitutes a criminal offense pursuant to the Texas Penal Code.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 86*
Defines as abuse the placement of a child or the failure to remove a child from a situation in which there is a substantial risk of sexual conduct harmful to a child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943*
Sec. 4—Requires the removal of an alleged perpetrator rather than the child from the home if the department determines that such removal would protect the child.

Sec. 7—Requires children believed to have been sexually abused to undergo medical examination, including testing for HIV. Requires confidentiality except for reports to the court, a foster parent or a prospective adoptive parent.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 154*
Extends and funds the juvenile sex offender and victim treatment pilot program for one year.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 834*
Requires a 20-year sentence for second offenses pertaining to certain sex crimes against children. Prohibits suspended sentences in such cases.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 839*
Expands the definition of sexually explicit visual material to include digital images. Includes electronic transmission as a means of unlawful distribution. Grants authority to the attorney general to prosecute child pornography cases.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 216*
Defines the crime of being a sexually violent predator. Details procedures pertaining to the alleged predator, including filing petition, and hearing and trial procedures. Outlines the legal rights of the offender while under treatment, the conditions for compliance with treatment, responsibility for covering costs of treatment, terms of release and leaves of absence and procedures to follow should the offender escape from the treatment facility.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 268*
Expands the definition of "sex offense" against a minor.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 14*
Creates a penalty enhancement for sexual abuse when the perpetrator is a parent, guardian or other person responsible for the welfare of the child.

Victim and Witness Protection

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1267, Sec. 4*
Allows administrative law judges conducting specified licensing hearings to permit child witness testimony by one-way closed-circuit television. Allows respondents the right to cross-examination.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 427*
Expands hearsay exception for acts of child or sexual abuse to child witnesses.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-674*
Provides that testimony by child victims in sexual assault cases be conducted via closed-circuit television.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 86*
Prohibits juvenile or criminal agencies from dismissing a sexual abuse investigation based on the refusal by a victim or a witness to take a polygram test. Requires that victims and witnesses be notified that such tests are voluntary, that results are not admitted in court and the reasons for not investigating their claim.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 243, Sec. 6*
Relaxes the criteria for victim assistance grants and clarifies funding restrictions.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 503*
Allows a child abuse victim to bring a civil action against the perpetrator up to 10 years after reaching the age of majority.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 754*
Specifies that defendants accused of sex crimes against children are not entitled to compel the victim to submit to medical or psychological exams. Requires a hearing on such requests and relieves the victim from attending.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 755*
Requires that court orders for a child victim's medical, psychological or other records be specific and that a hearing be held to ensure that the records are not sought to harass the victim.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 349*
Outlines the elements of protection orders issued in divorce actions and includes such cases in the statewide order of protection and warrant registry.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 75*
Requires HIV testing of sex offenders at the victim's request.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 131*
Requires the court to suppress the name of a minor victim of rape, incest or sexual contact upon the request of the victim.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 4*
Requires the removal of an alleged perpetrator rather than the child from the home if the department determines that such removal would protect the child.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Administration

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1280, Sec. 12*
Creates a criminal records check committee for child care providers.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 242*
Establishes an independent child advocate office with broad responsibilities ranging from evaluating multiple state services to reviewing complaints and representing children. Grants access to records.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 160-1995*
Reinstates the board for the coordination of child care regulation until 1997. Reduces membership.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 401, Sec. 11-15*
Establishes an executive committee and outlines appointment authority for the Child Care and Early Childhood Coordinating Commission. Specifies staff support and clarifies the role of the commission.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455, Sec. 7, 21*
Establishes a Governor's roundtable to study employment, training, child care and health issues related to low-income families. Requires findings and recommendations be presented to the governor and legislature.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 324, Sec. 27A*
Requires legislative oversight of Smart Start by the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, including selection of an independent performance audit of the program's first two years. Expands the role of the state partnership to provide technical assistance, assess outcome goals, help establish policies and outcome measures, obtain nonstate resources and verify local partnership contributions.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.01, 9.06-9.10*
Establishes mechanisms to improve agency coordination and to integrate and streamline services.

Background Checks and Screening

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1280*
Requires that the Child Care Providers Fund be spent first for criminal records checks with remaining funds used for training materials. Requires employees of a licensed child care facility to have a child abuse registry check. Penalizes individuals who give false information. Creates a criminal records check committee.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1267*
Expands the criminal record check for licensed child care or foster care facilities to include arrest records for serious crimes, instead of records of those awaiting trial. Prohibits the state from using an arrest record to deny, revoke or terminate an applicant unless it investigates. Allows exemptions. Authorizes the department of justice to access social services licensing records and deny Trustline applications.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1268*
Adds an FBI check to the Trustline registration system for license-exempt child care providers. Requires an interagency agreement to seek federal matching funds for Trustline. Adds an FBI check to the Trustline registration system for license-exempt child care providers. Removes certain publicly funded Trustline exemptions if the provider is caring for new enrollees, caring for children after a lapse or if state funding is available. Prohibits private employment agencies from placing nonTrustline providers in parents' homes, instead of prohibiting referrals.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 38*
Authorizes charitable organizations to obtain criminal history checks on employees or volunteers who have unsupervised access to children.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 360*
Makes records of investigations against child care licensees confidential for a period of time.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 30-42—Requires employment screening for personnel in programs for children and youth.

Sec. 47, 50-51—Creates two levels of employment screening, procedures for denial or termination, exemptions from disqualification, payment, confidentiality and sharing of personnel information. Prohibits the human services agency from classifying child abuse reports or from using previous classifications for employment screening. Transfers the responsibility for criminal history checks to law enforcement.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 160*
Requests a feasibility study on requiring criminal background checks on people seeking a position of supervisory or disciplinary authority over children.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 298*
Requires a criminal background investigation for an adult residing in a foster care home or child care home.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 401, Sec. 1*
Prohibits a child care license from being issued to a person who has had a criminal conviction set aside.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 302*
Allows the state Bureau of Child Care to designate a person or agency to be responsible for the collection and submission of fingerprints for background investigations of licensed child care providers.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 507, Sec. 23.25*
Requires state and local criminal history and fingerprint checks for child care providers. Requires national checks for certain providers. Prohibits child care services by providers determined unfit. Lists crimes to be checked. Provides for confidentiality, limited immunity for compliant employers and the right to challenge a determination. Requires child care owners to pay for fingerprints and local record checks and the state to pay for state and national record checks.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 303*
Grants access to juvenile courts records to state agency and law enforcement officials as part of a child care background check.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 304*
Allows state agency inspection of juvenile court records for background investigations of early childhood workers in a licensed facility or home.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 466*
Makes it a misdemeanor for individuals who have committed a crime against a child or have been denied an early childhood license for abuse and neglect to provide early childhood services.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 142*
Grants child care facilities access to the sex offender registry. Makes it unlawful for sex offenders to work with children and for employers to employ registered sex offenders. Expands sex offender registration requirements.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 222*
Requires a criminal history check for any adult residing in a family day care home. Allows for release of information to another child care facility or day care center considering the individual for employment.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 54*
Requires fingerprinting of child care operators and staff. Limits the fee for background checks.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 920, Sec. 7*
Expands the list of people subject to criminal history checks and those with access to criminal history information. Authorizes the state to charge a fee for criminal history checks.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 109*
Requires checks for owners, directors and members of governing bodies of child placement and foster care services.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 401*
Clarifies that background checks apply to board members and others who work with agency children. Expands the definition of "person" to include legal entities.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 29*
Requires a job applicant with unsupervised contact with children to certify that they have no evidence of a criminal record.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 4, 6*
Requires fingerprinting of child care or foster care license applicants, their employees or others with unsupervised access to children when they have not resided in the state for the previous three years. Requires that fingerprint costs be paid by the licensee, with an exception. Requires training in child development and child protection for administrative law judges who preside over license denial, suspension or revocation hearings.

Financing/Publicly Funded Programs/Service Expansion

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 850*
Provides an income tax credit for businesses that operate employer child care facilities. Repeals the sales and use tax exemption for construction materials, but allows for a refund. Removes the restriction that the facility must have a certain average daily attendance.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 196*
Eliminates an increase in an AFDC grant for a child born into a family receiving aid for 10 months prior to the birth. Maintains eligibility for other benefits, including child care.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 588*
Increases the reimbursement rate for child care for infants and toddlers in centers and family day care homes.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 690*
Creates a new licensing category—employer-sponsored child care centers—and allows certain waivers from licensing requirements.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 748*
Establishes caps and limits to the state's personal and corporate income tax credit for child care start-up costs, information and referral services, child care facility construction costs and contributions to a qualified care plan. Extends the credits.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1171*
Allows child care contractors to charge parents for diapers and field trips under certain circumstances. Encourages contractors to maintain a budget reserve of certain unspent state contract funds.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1185*
Establishes a child care pilot program for migrant children from birth to age 5. Requires a request for applications from school districts, nonprofits and public providers. Requires state consultation with migrant parents on the program's design. Requires providers to submit an evaluative report to the legislature based on annual data. Requires providers to use high school students as child care aides as part of their community service.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1268*
Requires an interagency agreement to seek federal matching funds for Trustline, the registration system for license-exempt child care providers.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 1*
Extends child care and Medicaid benefits to two years for former AFDC recipients who work. Requires a waiver to streamline AFDC child care rules and procedures.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 266, Sec. 3*
Earmarks a portion of the education appropriation to expand Head Start programs to towns with a certain number of AFDC children.

DC *1995 D.C. Laws 11-2*
Establishes differential child care payment rates based on the age of the child.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 63*
Allows at-risk children to remain in subsidized day care as long as they are not absent for a specified number of days.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995*
Sec. 16—Allows AFDC benefits to be diverted to child care subsidies for employed AFDC recipients until the recipient's family income exceeds the poverty level, which is the newly established AFDC eligibility level.

Sec. 22 Establishes a Transitional Child Care (TCC) cap at 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 53, Sec. 1*
Requires that minor parents must have graduated from high school, have a GED or be engaged full-time in completing this requirement. Conditions this requirement on the availability of child care.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 6*
Appropriates funds for state child care assistance including TCC. Specifies priority populations for waiting lists. Permits eligibility to be increased to 75 percent of state's median family income. Extends eligibility to migrant workers and allocates child care money to the Mexican-American center.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-11*
Provides TCC to recently terminated AFDC recipients because of a wage or hour increase and work search activities. Requires periodic reporting and premium guidelines.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 120*
Increases the maximum amount for a loan from a special fund for a child care facility from $5,000 to $10,000.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491*
Authorizes AFDC case workers to delegate certain transitional assistance, including child care, to a third party, as defined, that will assist an AFDC recipient whose benefits have been terminated for failure to comply with pilot program requirements. Establishes a pilot program that requires nonexempt adult recipients to participate in community service work or a paid job after three months of receiving assistance. Exempts recipients caring for a child under age 3. Requires the department to provide participants with support services, including child care and transportation.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110—Requires AFDC recipients under age 20 to be enrolled in a high school or a GED certificate program and requires child care for those unable to secure informal or alternative child care. Calculates the period of transitional child care from the participant's hire date. Requires the head of a nonexempt family to work 20 hours per week in a job or community service activity after 60 days of receiving assistance if the family has no children under school age. Provides for child care.

Sec. 126—Requires a state plan to be presented to the legislature to expand subsidized child care to all income eligible families. Requires the plan to include workplace opportunities with an emphasis on the private sector.

Sec. 135—Requires a monthly report to certain state agencies and the Joint committee on ways and Means on the utilization and cost of day care programs in the MASSJOBS program.

Sec. 139—Authorizes the study of a child care program where AFDC recipients provide child care services to other AFDC recipients and income-eligible parents.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 259, Art. 1, Sec. 5*
Makes data on food assistance and Head Start recipients private information.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 401, Sec. 20*
Expands the existing grant program to include improving a child care program and specifies criteria for awards.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455*
Sec. 10—Provides TCC to low-income working families in counties with a welfare reform demonstration project.

Sec. 15—Permits 24 months of cost shared TCC for AFDC families whose 2-year cash assistance level has expired. Allows the state to require families to pay up to 20 percent of their gross income for TCC.

Sec. 20—Requires a market rate survey every other year to adjust the child care reimbursement rate. Establishes a minimum rate at the 60th percentile and a maximum rate at the 75th percentile.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 701*
Appropriates funds to the Churchill County School District for the expansion of an AmeriCorps child care program to include child care and instructional classes for young mothers under age 17.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 324, Sec. 27A*
Limits administrative costs of existing local Smart Start early childhood partnerships. Directs them to administer quality incentive grants. Requires new partnerships to submit a spending plan before receiving funds. Requires competitive bidding on contracts, with exceptions. Authorizes $3.5 million in continuation funds for 12 new partnerships for planning. Requires partnerships to match at least half of their allocations with cash and in-kind contributions. Requires a proportionate reduction in next year's appropriation if partnerships fail to obtain a 20 percent match.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 459*
Directs the state to request a federal waiver for a demonstration project that combines AFDC, food stamps and fuel assistance benefits. Requires the inclusion of other benefits, including child care.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 6*
Creates a demonstration project to extend Transitional Child Care to 24 months, beginning when the family loses AFDC eligibility, subject to federal waiver approval.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 636, Sec. 4*
Establishes the Prekindergarten Program Trust Fund to assist eligible children with comprehensive services including educational, social, health and nutritional development. Authorizes spending the Trust Fund for prekindergarten and parents-as-teacher programs only.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 40*
Includes corporate donations to nonprofit agencies as a qualifying expenditure for the child care credit.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.04 and 3.02*
Requires child care services for AFDC recipients, based on their needs assessment and employability plan. Adjusts TCC eligibility to reflect state-imposed AFDC time limits.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.133-46D*
Provides that child care and medical support continue for up to 12 months after a welfare reform participant is terminated from AFDC, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 852, Sec. 22.1-199.1-C*
Establishes a grant program for quality preschool programs for at-risk 4-year-olds who are underserved by other programs.

Preschool Services

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1171, Sec. 1*
Allows public or private agencies other than local education agencies to operate a state preschool program.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 266, Sec. 3*
Earmarks a portion of the education appropriation to expand Head Start programs to towns with a certain number of AFDC children.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 158, Sec. 5-6*
Applies certain licensing requirements governing quality care to drop-in child care centers. Changes the definitions of toddler and preschooler for family day care programs serving siblings.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 11*
Requires AFDC recipients to attend parent education programs or to enlist their child in Head Start, early childhood education or Parents as Teachers, with exceptions.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 636, Sec. 4*
Establishes the Prekindergarten Program Trust Fund to assist eligible children with comprehensive services including educational, social, health and nutritional development. Authorizes spending the trust fund for prekindergarten and parents-as-teacher programs only.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 852, Sec. 22.1-199.1-C*
Establishes a grant program for quality preschool programs for at-risk 4 year-olds who are underserved by other programs.

Regulation and Licensing

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1280, Sec. 3*
Raises licensing fees for larger child care facilities.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 252*
Limits a public school principal from serving as a child care center director except when the center is on the school campus and is staffed by public school employees.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 690*
Creates a new licensing category—employer-sponsored child care centers—and allows reasonable waivers from licensing requirements.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 848*
Provides alternative education and experience qualifications for school-age child care teachers and directors, including credentials in recreation, vocational training and youth development. Authorizes provisional licenses for school-age child care programs in the schools.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 360*
Provides for biennial child care license renewal for centers and homes. Allows state disciplinary and civil actions against licensees. Creates uniform civil penalties against centers and homes operating without a valid license. Requires a licensee to request a hearing when an action is taken against the licensee. Extends the time to request a hearing when a child care license is denied.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, HCR 16*
Requires Hepatitis B immunizations for children attending licensed child care facilities.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 159-1995*
Requires registered child care ministries that do not have standard fire alarm systems or smoke detectors in every room to provide notice that they lack the same level of fire safety protection as other centers.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 160-1995*
Reinstates the board for the coordination of child care regulation until 1997. Reduces membership.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 6.-5*
Directs the state to develop incentives for the registration of child day care providers.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 74*
Requires the department to adopt rules for licensed child care facilities and home baby-sitting services to have rabies vaccinations for dogs or cats residing permanently or occasionally on its premises.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 207*
Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules for the certification and authorization of early childhood providers of educational programs, developmental therapy and special instruction to children with disabilities.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 158*
Sec. 1-5—Defines school-age child and school-age child care programs and requires certain nonschool-based programs to be licensed. Applies licensing requirements regarding size and staffing to school-age programs.

Sec. 5-6—Applies certain licensing requirements governing quality care to drop-in child care centers. Changes the definitions of toddler and preschooler for family day care programs serving siblings.

Sec. 7—Requires a report on child care regulations including what programs should be regulated.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 401*
Sec. 1—Prohibits a child care license from being issued to a person who has had a criminal conviction set aside.

Sec. 21, 31—Authorizes the voluntary accreditation of child care programs and promulgation of rules for public school programs.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 465*
Authorizes the suspension of a child care facility's license during investigation of reported abuse and neglect.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 192*
Requires licensing rules for child care centers for children with short-term illnesses and other temporary medical conditions. Requires the department to categorize crisis nurseries and permits the department to apply for federal grants to assist certain crisis nurseries in providing temporary services to certain children. See Ohio Revised Code *Sec.* 5104.014 in this act.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 275*
Prohibits smoking in child care centers and family day care homes during hours of operation unless smoking cannot be seen by the children and it occurs in a separately ventilated area or outdoors.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 222*
Clarifies the process of notifying and resolving license violations in child care facilities.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 139*
Excludes child care provided in the home of the provider from the definition of employment for unemployment insurance purposes.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 685*
Requires that losses in connection with child care provided by a family day care home be covered by an insurance policy separate from homeowner or renter liability or fire insurance.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 5*
Requires child care providers to implement a supervision plan to protect all children immediately upon notification of a child abuse investigation of an employee or administrator.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 210*
Approves regulations for group day care homes.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 847*
Exempts a municipality-operated school-age recreation program from child care licensure if the program meets certain standards and informs parents that it is unlicensed. Exempts certain youth camps that provide care for the homeless from licensure.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 920, Sec. 10*
Requires that child care facilities comply with specific minimum standards on staff-child ratios, group sizes and square footage, and prohibits enforcement of more stringent standards. Requires a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and economic impact study, within available appropriations, to determine minimum child care standards. Requires a revision of standards to be presented to the legislative oversight committees that have child care jurisdiction for review and comment.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 244*
Eliminates the registration requirement for public and private summer camps and vacation schools.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 7*
Allows for six month probationary child care and foster care licenses under certain circumstances for temporarily noncompliant licensees or for those who have received multiple complaints or concerns.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 179*
Exempts from regulation a child care facility that cares for children of only one family. Requires the representation of a sanitary inspector on the certification board. Modifies the annual certification and fee process.

School-Age Child Care/Child Care in Public Schools

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 848*
Provides alternative education and experience qualifications for school-age child care teachers and directors, including credentials in recreation, vocational training and youth development. Authorizes provisional licenses for school-age child care programs in the schools.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 126—Requires a plan to expand the comprehensive school-age parenting program statewide.

Sec. 136—Requires a feasibility study for an extended day child care pilot program for K - 8 students.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 158, Sec. 1-5*
Defines a school-age child and school-age child care programs and requires certain nonschool-based programs to be licensed. Applies licensing requirements regarding size and staffing to school-age programs.

MS *1995 Miss. Laws, Chap. 609*
Establishes a Support Our Students (SOS) grant program for community- and neighborhood-based entities to provide quality after-school activities for school-age children. Specifies the goal of reducing juvenile crime. Outlines the application process. Requires local needs assessments and three-year plans to include anticipated outcomes and goals. Prioritizes low-income, high-risk students. Requires an evaluation and interagency cooperation.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 701*
Appropriates funds to the Churchill County School District for the expansion of an AmeriCorps child care program to include child care and instructional classes for young mothers under age 17.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 244*
Eliminates the registration requirement for public and private summer camps and vacation schools for children.

Services for At-Risk/Family Support/Education Services

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1228*
Expands the definition of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs. Requires a needs assessment of family resources, priorities and concerns to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with special needs, as part of a family service plan. Expands Part H services beyond Part B eligibility. Adds parental consent standards to the minimum Part H requirements.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 126*
Requires a plan to expand the comprehensive school-age parenting program statewide and a school-to-work plan for school-age youth.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 429, Sec. 32.225*
Grants a preference for state jobs for former state employees who terminated employment to care for young children and are reapplying for a state job.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 701*
Appropriates funds to the Churchill County School District for the expansion of an AmeriCorps child care program to include child care and instructional classes for young mothers under age 17.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 721*
Requires the state to create family resource centers in at-risk neighborhoods to provide or refer people to services including social services, mental health, child care and educational programs.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 11*
Requires AFDC recipients to attend parent education programs or to enlist their child in Head Start, early childhood education or Parents as Teachers, with exceptions.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 636, Sec. 4*
Establishes the Prekindergarten Program Trust Fund to assist eligible children with comprehensive services including educational, social, health and nutritional development. Authorizes spending funds for prekindergarten and parents-as-teacher programs only.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 483*
Requires interagency cooperation to establish "parents as first teachers" pilot programs. Caps annual expenditures.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 481*
Requires the court to consider willingness and availability of the noncustodial parent to provide child care personally in determining whether child care costs are necessary or excessive.

Support for Providers/Training/Resource and Referral

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 594*
Provides a list of appropriate topics for required annual continuing education for child care workers.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1280, Sec. 5*
Allows the Child Care Provider Fund to be spent on training material only when funds remain after spending for criminal records checks.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 848*
Provides alternative education and experience qualifications for school-age child care teachers and directors, including credentials in recreation, vocational training and youth development.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 6, 6*
Appropriates funds for resource and referral services.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 139*
Authorizes a study on child care provided to AFDC recipients by other AFDC recipients or income eligible parents.

MI *1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 349*
Requires child care agencies to have one staff member trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 685*
Prohibits insurers from cancelling or refusing to issue or renew homeowners' or renters' liability insurance or fire insurance solely because the policy holder is a family day care provider.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 4*
Requires consultation with child care employee representatives to promulgate emergency pesticide rules. Requires that the rules include prior notification about pesticides to employees.

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CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

Administration/Financing Policy

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 349, Sec. 6*
Requires the state to license outpatient psychiatric clinics for children, youth and families and to designate and fund some as child guidance clinics.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 30-42*
Requires employment screening for personnel in programs for children and youth.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 3. 2, 3(b)(d)*
Allows use of medical assistance funds to provide case management services for mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Requires the state to pay the entire nonfederal share of case management for youth under age 17 receiving services from certain mental retardation facilities.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 234, Sec. 1-33*
Creates a new developmental disability reform act. Specifies agency duties; creates new responsibilities. Changes nomenclature and defines terms.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 97, Sec. 210.861*
Designates board members of the St. Louis Community Children's Fund as members of the community mental health board of trustees.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 210.865*
Requires the departments of social services, health, mental health and courts to coordinate their information systems to track individual children.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 524/L.B. 524A*
Allows assignment of child, spousal or medical support to the state during the time a child is a ward of the state. Entitles the custodial parent to receive child, spousal or medical support during the time when the child is not a ward of the state. Appropriates funds to carry out the act.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 220*
Requires those responsible and chargeable for a state or county ward's support to pay directly to the state or county for the minor's support.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 207*
Establishes a new article in the Childen's Code with the "Children's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Act." Eliminates restrictions on behavioral modification. Consolidates abuse or neglect and mental health proceedings. Creates position of resource consultants to assist families in finding appropriate and least restrictive services for their children. Provides for the appointment of a guardian ad litem for certain children 14 years and older.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 411*
Prohibits the release of a child's mental health records to a person accused of child abuse or neglect.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 373*
Requires an interagency agreement to add mental health to the state's emergency assistance plan, thereby increasing federal funding.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655*
Sec. 6.01, 9.06-9.10—Establishes mechanisms to improve agency coordination and to integrate and streamline services.

Sec. 6.07—Requires interagency agreements to provide mental health emergency assistance.

Treatment

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Acts 765 and 809*
Establishes guidelines for the out-of-state placement of emotionally disturbed youth.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 199*
Continues the current requirements for foster care homes that serve severely emotionally disturbed children.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 790*
Makes technical changes to a foster family pilot program for emotionally disturbed children. Authorizes placement of two emotionally disturbed siblings in the same foster home.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 153-1995*
Authorizes community mental retardation and other developmental disabilities centers to provide case management and early intervention services. Defines each.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 82, Sec. 6-12*
Expands the use of state hospital-schools to populations other than the mentally retarded. Applies procedural requirements on placements and discharges. Authorizes the juvenile court to handle involuntary commitments of youth with mental retardation.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 190*
Requires a diagnosis of mental retardation be made only when the onset of the condition occurs before age 18, that it follow the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) and that it be conducted by a trained psychologist or psychiatrist.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 3-15 and 20*
Provides that administrative rules be developed to identify optimum staffing ratios for intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. Directs the department to apply for federal funds available for families of children with disabilities.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 234, Sec. 1-33*
Creates a new developmental disability reform act. Outlines client rights, services and protections.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1287*
Changes the definitions and regulations for treatments that include restraint and seclusion of institutionalized mental patients, including minors.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 179*
Expands the finance authority of the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority to include services such as mental health, substance abuse and family counseling.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 167.126*
Requires school districts to educate a child placed in that district by court order or by the mental health or social services department.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 632*
Requires that a petition for the involuntary commitment of a minor include a signed parental statement that the parent does not object.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 721*
Requires the state to create family resource centers in at-risk neighborhoods to provide or refer people to services including social services, mental health, child care and educational programs.

NC *1995 N.C. Laws, Chap. 336*
Requires mental health and substance abuse agencies to notify and consult with parents before discharging their children.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 231*
Defines "day treatment," requires licensing, creates a mechanism to investigate abuse or neglect of children in day treatment and establishes oversight.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 254*
Expands the venue for legal proceedings regarding mental health treatment.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353, Sec. 6*
Provides for child welfare personnel to access mental health records in a child abuse investigation.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 38*
Outlines requirements to place emotionally disturbed children in out-of-state settings.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 468*
Establishes a procedure to apply for public mental retardation services that includes an explanation and a review when services are considered unsuitable or unavailable.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 142*
Allows for involuntary commitment of people under age 18 in state hospitals by a parent or guardian, if an independent fact finder determines the admission is appropriate. Requires the establishment of procedures to protect the due process rights of such minors.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Administration/Fees/Financing

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 391*
Determines allocation of child support collections.

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 526*
Places in escrow amounts collected of $10 or less, and disburses amounts greater than $10.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 707*
Allows attorneys to collect fees contingent on collecting child support arrearages.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1180*
Authorizes child support payments to the person with physical custody of the child for more than eight consecutive weeks.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1184*
Changes state code on various provisions of the rights and duties of the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1344*
Creates a statewide clearinghouse for child support collection and distribution.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 256*
Relaxes the county requirement to spend excess child support funds on child support enforcement within 2 fiscal years.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 823*
Authorizes a state loan to Los Angeles County for its automated child-support enforcement system. Specifies conditions under which the county would not have to repay.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 906, Sec. 4*
Requires the district attorney to return support payments to the obligor if the person receiving support cannot be located after six months.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 953*
Delays implementation of the statewide registry for child support orders.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 157, Sec. 1*
Allows the child support enforcement-agency to charge a fee for consumer obligor credit checks. Clarifies administrative authority. Authorizes the agency to "enforce" rather than "impose" liens.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 336-1995*
Establishes a five county pilot program with comparison groups to study the effectiveness of the AFDC program with respect to client assessment, employment, child support and cost benefits. Payments to provider will depend on the success of individual clients.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 115, Sec. 13*
Directs the child support recovery unit to evaluate the costs of services to nonpublic assistance recipients and develop recommendations on ways to cover such costs other than the fees.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 8*
Appropriates funds to continue several initiatives including software development, community awareness and pilot projects for absent parents and court referees. Allows the department to contract with private collection agencies.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 480*
Determines when a support payment becomes delinquent and requires the court to order income withholding in some circumstances.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 490*
Establishes a reinvestment fund to improve child support enforcement services. Outlines the fund's purpose, duties and procedures.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 3, 13*
Establishes a pilot program to privatize child support enforcement functions.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 534*
Permits the state to collect an initial, one time, nominal application fee from obligees seeking child support enforcement services.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178, Art. 2*
Sec. 18—Authorizes payments for child support obligors injured on the job while participating in work experience community service programs as ordered by the court.

Sec. 22—Authorizes a waiver to place in escrow amounts of $10 or less collected as child or family support and disburses amounts greater than $10. Authorizes counties to assess underpayment fees to obligors.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178, Art. 5, Sub. 2(g)*
Defines child support as the voluntary or court ordered payment from absent parents for an assistance unit.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 1—Permits the disclosure of data in the welfare work reporting system for purposes of child support enforcement.

Sec. 2-9—Requires the department to keep records about child support enforcement liens; allows liens to be entered on certificates of title; defines filing provisions; and, includes exception, exemption, disclosure, satisfaction provisions.

Sec. 10-12—Adds the public authority responsible for child support enforcement to the definition of the welfare system. Allows welfare data on child support payments made by the obligor to be disclosed to the obligee. Grants the head of the child support enforcement agency responsibility for child support data.

Sec. 17—Requires that lump-sum payments for arrearages be prorated over the next 12 months.

Sec. 34—Requires the commissioner to evaluate and report on all child support programs and enforcement mechanisms.

Sec. 35—Directs the commissioner to seek a federal waiver to operate a child support assurance demonstration project.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 2*
Sec. 2—Requires the commissioner to create a central collections unit for child support payments and allows the services to be contracted out.

Sec. 3—Requires local agencies to provide a location to receive payments and transmit funds to the central collections unit. Includes provisions for incentive payments, electronic funds transfers and income withholding.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3, Sec. 7*
Deals with lump-sum payments and their use to cover child support obligations.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, HB 232 and 485, Sec. 21.770*
Requires a legislative interim study on child visitation and support.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 10.1*
Sets fees for initiating or modifying child support orders.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 9*
Creates the Comprehensive Enforcement Program Fund to improve child support collections and compliance. Establishes procedures for the program to follow in enforcing child support orders. Appropriates funds for the program by assessing fees upon its successful collections and other surcharges.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 360, Sec. 4*
Changes revenue statutes for child support collections.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 444*
Clarifies that the clerk of the court is to track compliance with support orders for non-Title IV-D cases and that the agency is to track Title IV-D cases.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 219*
Assesses fees for filing post decree income assignment orders for child support.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 19-237.1*
Allows the district attorney's office to receive federal or state funds for payment of expenses incurred during child support enforcement and collection activities.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 262*
Establishes the Child Support Revolving Fund within the state treasury. Appropriates money to the fund separately from the general fund.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II*
Sec. 3-20-7-9515—Requires the director to issue a notice of financial responsibility for child support to an obligor. The notice must include statements concerning negotiations, the obligor's right to request a court hearing, the name of the custodian on whose behalf support is sought, the amount of accrued arrearages and other such administrative information.

Sec. 5—Requires the department to provide an automated monthly report of obligors who have been delinquent in child support payments for two consecutive months to consumer credit reporting agencies.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 8*
Allows an AFDC recipient to retain the first $75 of child support payment, to be increased thereafter.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 341*
Requires the attorney general's office to establish support obligations in AFDC cases within one year of notification by the department.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.06*
Requires child support agencies to refer cases to law enforcement that involve a pregnant child under age 17 resulting from sexual conduct that constitutes a criminal offense pursuant to the Texas Penal Code.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 117*
Provides that placement of a child in foster care constitutes assignment to the state of any support rights attributable to the child.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 483*
Requires the state to charge interest against obligor's arrearages of court-ordered spousal or child support and changes the interest rate from 6 percent to the judgment rate.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 817*
Requires the parents of a child who has been placed in foster care by the court to pay child support directly to the state.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 219*
Terminates the child support enforcement division as of July 1997, dependent on performance reviews.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 88*
Establishes the support enforcement commission and determines membership and organizational requirements. Outlines general duties including establishing the child support enforcement division. Sets duties for the division and its enforcement procedures and techniques, including income withholding and procedures for reimbursing obligors when amounts were improperly withheld. Defines "child advocate," "director," "obligee," "obligor" and "secretary" in relation to child support enforcement services. Equates the "child advocate office" with the "child support enforcement division."

Court and Administrative Procedures

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1064*
Expedites the hearing process of Title IV-D child support and paternity cases.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 953*
Authorizes the Judicial Council to develop worksheets and forms to facilitate child support determinations and answers from defendants. Requires the court clerks to accept handwritten answers from defendants. Specifies that failure to give forms to defendants may be cause to set aside an order.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 157, Sec. 1-2*
Requires child support orders to be filed with land court or recorded in the bureau of conveyances after the order is filed in land court.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 191*
Allows, but does not require, the state to seek disposition without hearing in contested child support cases. Determines where to file administrative orders. Requires a court order to include wage withholding.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-631*
Prevents a parent from inheriting a child's estate if a parent neglected or failed to support the child.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 207, Art. 10*
Sec. 5—Specifies that all applications for exemption from cooperation with child support enforcement requirements under AFDC be reviewed by the county human services board.

Sec. 13—Specifies the county attorney to represent the county agency rather than the custodial parents in enforcement actions.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 16—Establishes a work reporting system for receiving and maintaining information from employers on newly hired workers and authorizes disclosure of the information for child support enforcement. Imposes civil penalties against employers who fail to comply.

Sec. 21—Adds unwarranted denial of or interference with, a visitation schedule as reason for the court to modify a custody order.

Sec. 22—Permits the court to cite an obligor for contempt upon failure to pay maintenance or support or for refusal to give security for their payment.

Sec. 29—Establishes a procedure to order an obligor who is in arrears, whose employment cannot be verified and who has not consented to an income withholding order to seek employment or be in contempt.

Sec. 30—Defines contempt proceedings for nonpayment of child support and allows the court to order participation in a county work experience program until proof of gainful employment and submission to an order for income withholding is shown.

Sec. 31—Requests the supreme court to conduct a study on the relationship between visitation and payment of child support and to make recommendations.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3*
Sec. 9-10—Requires the court to provide a copy of the withholding order to the public authority responsible for enforcement. Removes limiting orders to the county of origin.

Sec. 14—Specifies that in cases of child support the judgment's certificate of satisfaction need not be filed with the court until the judgment is fully satisfied.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 4, Sec. 2*
Modifies the statute that allows anyone having physical custody of a child to sue an absent parent for support.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 5*
Sec. 1—Gives administrative law judges authority to exercise the powers of district court judges to obtain and enforce child and medical support, parentage and maintenance obligations and authorizes them to approve parentage orders with uncontested custody and visitation provisions.

Sec. 3—Eliminates references to child support under the administrative conference statute; increases the time for requesting a conference; and, makes an order enforceable upon signing by the administrative law judges or court.

Sec. 4—Modifies the administrative process to require county participation. Includes provisions concerning the conduct of hearings and electronic testimony. Gives judges the authority to limit the extent and timing of discovery.

Sec. 7—Assigns supervisory responsibility for the administrative process and for personnel training to the department and to the Office of Administrative Hearing for judicial and court activities.

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 533*
Establishes criminal penalties, including incarceration, for nonsupport of a child by the putative or natural parent.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 3.1*
Establishes procedures for determining the need for and appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL) in relation to child support, if it is in the child's best interest.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*
Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings or who is in violation of orders issued under child support and other cases.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*
Sets conditions for issuing certain orders requiring conditions of behavior in child support, paternity, guardianship, custody or family offense proceedings.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 149*
Allows for temporary non-ex parte orders of support, attorney fees and custody, while divorce action is still pending; but requires final orders be issued by the court at a hearing.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 800*
Provides for education, information and referral services as part of local family-centered service systems. Requires the state to develop a public information program for families in conflict. Requires information on child support, visitation guidelines and conflict resolution to be included and distributed at certain locations.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 85*
Allows the court to order a defendant in a domestic violence case to pay child support and other expenses.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 127*
Allows the court to order wage withholding in a child support case when orders of protection or a court approved consent agreement exist.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 159*
Allows collection of court-ordered child support through the clerk of court. Assesses a clerk's fee to be added to the court ordered support obligation amount.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 85*
Allows obligors to use "inability to provide" as an affirmative defense.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 59, Sec. 5-8*
Makes several changes in child support related to adoption, travel-related expenses, interest calculations, judgments and printed notices in affidavits.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 428*
Adds public service to the sentencing choices of a court in cases of nonpayment of support.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 481*
Requires the court to consider willingness and availability of the noncustodial parent to provide child care personally in determining whether child-care costs are necessary or excessive.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 817*
Requires the parents of a child who has been placed in foster care by the court to pay child support directly to the state.

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Driver's, Professional and Other Licenses Revocation/Suspension

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 752*
Authorizes the suspension of an obligor's occupational or business license or permanent license plates for nonpayment of child support.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 906, Sec. 3.6*
Provides a mechanism to withhold the issuance or renewal of professional licenses from obligors who are in arrears.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 159*
Allows suspension of an obligor's driver's license for failing to pay child support.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 310*
Establishes a system to suspend an obligor's driver's, occupational or professional licenses for failing to pay child support and medical insurance coverage. Determines rules and regulations. Allows the court's jurisdiction to prevail in certain out-of-state cases.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 133-1995*
Allows suspension of professional or driver's licenses for those in arrears $2,000 or more, or more than 90 days late in payments. Specifies remedies.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 115*
Provides a process to deny professional licenses to certain obligors who are delinquent in paying child support.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Acts 751 and 1078*
Allows the court to suspend any occupational or professional license or permit to drive, hunt or fish for those in arrears over 90 days; or those who have failed to provide health insurance. Provides for notification, appeal and reinstatement of the license or permit.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 154*
Urges the State Supreme Court to provide for suspension of legal professionals' licenses for a support order violation.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 2*
Allows suspension of the driver's license of an obligor who is in arrears.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 10, 12-13, 24—Allows the destruction of records for those whose driver's license is improperly suspended. Specifies payment verification provisions for issuing, reinstating, and renewing suspended licenses. Modifies the procedures for occupational license suspension to provide for hearings conducted by the court, an administrative law judge or the public authority instead of by the licensing boards. Includes special notice and hearing provisions for the public authority cases.

Sec. 11—Requires the suspension of a driver's license and operating privileges for those in arrears on child support.

Sec. 25—Allows an obligee to motion the court for suspension of an obligor's driver's license for failing to pay child support. Includes notice, hearing and reinstatement provisions.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 388*
Authorizes the court to suspend driver's licenses of child support and court-ordered health insurance obligors in arrears by $1,000 or more, with possible modifications.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 254*
Allows suspending an obligor's driver's, occupational or sporting license for failing to pay child support.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 25*
Allows revocation of an obligor's professional or occupational license for failing to pay child support.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 538*
Allows revocation or suspension of sporting, occupational, professional or business licenses of child support obligors in arrears more than 30 days. Makes driver's licenses suspendable and vehicle registrations refusable as of Dec. 1, 1996.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 153*
Allows suspension of professional or occupational licenses for those in arrears by $1,000 or more.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 154*
Authorizes suspension of an obligor's driver's license for those in arrears by $1,000 or more.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 354*
Allows suspension or probation of an obligor's driver's, professional, occupational or business license for failure to pay child support. Allows reporting to the state bar association when the obligor is a licensed attorney.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 2-20-7-940, 945*
Defines "license" to include any authorization that allows or is required to engage in a business, occupation or profession, as well as driver's licenses, watercraft registrations and recreational licenses. Requires licensing entities to provide information for use in establishing and collecting child support obligations. Allows license revocation within 90 days of notification that a licensee is out of compliance with a support order, unless the arrearage is paid or a consent agreement is signed. Authorizes the division to make compliance determinations, to notify licensees and licensing entities of revocation action and to negotiate payment of arrearages. Establishes an appeals process and allows a licensee to request support modifications.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655*
Sec. 5.02-.03—Requires suspension of state licenses for failure to pay child support or to participate in certain education and job training programs for unemployed parents in arrears.

Sec. 5.04-.05—Requires marriage license applicants to submit a statement that neither party owes delinquent child support. Makes submitting false information a felony.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 85*
Allows suspension of professional, recreational or driver's licenses for failure to pay child support.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act [illegible], Sec. 4(d) and 11-12*
Authorizes driver's license suspension for noncompliance with child support.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 595*
Strengthens child support enforcement upon obligors who are in arrears more than 90 days or by $5,000 or more by allowing license revocation. Allows obtaining copies of obligor's federal tax returns, license revocation, income withholding and out-of-state court ordered enforcement.

Enforcement Techniques

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1181*
Permits appointment of a special deputy prosecutor for criminal nonsupport cases.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1182*
Allows prosecution of those who interfere with or fail to cooperate in child support cases under the Social Security Act's Title IV-D.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 959*
Requires that interest accrue at the legal rate upon child support arrearages. Requires that a statement of account must include the amount of current support, arrearages and interest due. Permits a 6 percent monthly penalty for nonpayment in flagrant cases of noncompliance; with exceptions. Determines that payments made through wage withholding are timely regardless of their receipt date.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1269, Sec. 57-59*
Requires Social Security numbers of both parents on birth certificates so that the information is available to district attorneys when enforcing child support orders or locating missing children.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 266, Sec. 1*
Requires the state to seek a federal waiver to participate in the fair share program to assist noncustodial parents in meeting delinquent child support obligations.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 65, Sec. 17*
Requires AFDC recipients to file suit or assist with a suit for unpaid child support, to remain eligible for benefits.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 157, Sec. 1, 2*
Authorizes the child support enforcement agency to "enforce" rather than "impose" liens.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 894*
Allows collection of delinquent child support through withholding of obligors' tax refunds and sets procedures and fees. Requires financial institutions per court order to disclose delinquent obligors' property and asset information. Establishes some considerations for undue hardships upon obligors.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-7, A-13*
Requires a home visit program for AFDC recipients, as part of the family contract, to verify new and existing information and to reinforce reporting responsibilities, including child support enforcement. Entitles participant to retain full amount of collected child support.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 419*
Authorizes specific child support enforcement techniques, including ordering job and job searches, using credit reporting, withholding tax refunds, acting against property, disclosing assets, charging obligor's fees for enforcement, requiring medical facilities to provide voluntary paternity acknowledgment forms and wage withholding. Allows court presentation by a nonattorney.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 1*
Provides that when one or both parents of a child are unemancipated minors, the grandparents are responsible for child support of the grandchild if the grandchild receives AFDC. Allows welfare recipients to keep child support for children deemed ineligible for AFDC cash assistance under "family cap" provisions and provides that such payments not be counted as income in determining AFDC eligibility.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 110*
Allows AFDC families to retain up to $90 per month in child support payments if child support increases due to the birth of a child.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 1—Permits the disclosure of data in the welfare work reporting system for purposes of child support enforcement.

Sec. 2-9—Requires the department to keep records about child support enforcement liens; allows liens to be entered on certificates of title; defines lien filing provisions; and, includes exception, exemption, disclosure and satisfaction provisions.

Sec. 15—Creates a child support obligor work experience program, which may operate in conjunction with a community or department of corrections work experience program, to include obligors who are physically able to work and fail to pay child support. Sets limits as to who must participate and the amount of time an obligor is required to participate.

Sec. 26—Contains new procedures for imposing motor vehicle liens against child support obligors in arrears, unless ownership interest is less than $4,500. Notice and hearing provisions are the same as for driver's license suspension.

Sec. 29—Establishes a procedure to order an obligor who is in arrears, whose employment cannot be verified and who has not consented to an income withholding order to seek employment or be in contempt.

Sec. 30—Defines contempt proceedings for nonpayment of child support and allows the court to order participation in a county work experience program until proof of gainful employment and submission to an order for income withholding is shown.

Sec. 34—Requires the commissioner to evaluate and report on all child support programs and enforcement mechanisms.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3, Sec. 2, 16*
Modifies provisions for publishing the names of delinquent child support obligors. Specifies criteria that govern good cause for nonpayment of child support.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 16.3*
Establishes procedures for determining child support responsibility of an apparently unemployed obligor.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 252*
Allows former AFDC recipients to collect up to 75 percent of child support arrearages if their non-AFDC status was obtained within the last 24 months.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 9*
Creates the Comprehensive Enforcement Program Fund to improve child support collections and compliance. Establishes procedures for the program to follow in enforcing child support orders. Appropriates funds for the program by assessing fees upon its successful collections and other surcharges.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 249*
Requires the state to biennially remind adoptive parents of child support obligations and of the need to notify the social services official if they are no longer providing support, in cases where the adoptive parents receive a maintenance subsidy for a handicapped or hard-to-place child.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 518*
Makes grandparents responsible for supporting their unemancipated minor's children until their minor child reaches age 18 or becomes emancipated. Redefines the term "responsible parent."

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 141*
Makes the willful failure to pay child support a felonious offense or a misdemeanor, depending on the amount owed.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155*
Sec. 1, 8—Prohibits delinquent obligors from disclaiming interest in an estate. Includes child support obligations in the list of priority claims to be paid out of the obligor's estate.

Sec. 7—Provides that termination of parental rights does not terminate a parent's duty to pay child support before the child's adoption.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346*
Sec. 16—Authorizes the department to investigate the reasons why the parents of children receiving AFDC are not providing maintenance and support. Requires the department to notify the district attorney of willful violation of child support provisions for possible prosecution.

Sec. 17-A-1, A-2, 17-D—Waives referral for prosecution of a parent whose child receives AFDC and who fails to comply with a support order if the parent is registered or registers with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and the parent provides for such support. Requires a noncustodial parent, who claims inability to pay child support due to unemployment, to register.

Sec. 17-B, C—Prohibits a parent who is unable to work because of physical or mental problems or disability and whose child is receiving AFDC, from referral for prosecution on indirect contempt charges because of failure to comply with a support order.

Sec. 20-A—Establishes a joint legislative committee to study the feasibility of providing enforcement and collection of child support obligations through private contractors or the state attorney general's office, as well as the district attorney.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 608*
Implements the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). Changes child support enforcement practices of Title IV-D agencies, including collection and disbursement of arrearages and paternity establishment.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 609*
Makes several changes to child support enforcement tactics, including time frame for paternity establishment by administrative order; availability of an obligor's tax return to enforcement agencies; wage withholding orders; and actions against an obligor's property or assets.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 23*
Allows JOBS Plus participants to retain the full child support payment collected by the department.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 18*
Allows collecting delinquent child support from obligor's federal and state income tax refunds.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II*
Sec. 3-20-7-9505—Assigns jurisdiction for establishing paternity and for establishing and enforcing child support to the division.

Sec. 3-20-7-9560—Authorizes the division to establish and enforce all duties of support from an obligor if requested to do so by an agency of another state and under the laws of the other state.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 13-14*
Requires an unemployed or underemployed noncustodial, court-ordered child support paying parent of a child receiving AFDC to participate in an employment training or public service employment. Provides for enforcement.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part IV, Sec. 1*
Authorizes the division to pursue support and maintenance for the child of an unmarried minor parent from that child's maternal or paternal grandparents as long as the parent is under 18 years of age.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 142*
Requires grandparents to support the children born to their minor children until their minor children are emancipated.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 359*
Allows collection of court-ordered child support through the clerk of the court. Assesses a clerk's fee to be added to the court-ordered support obligation amount.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 341*
Requires Title IV-D agencies to furnish information to consumer reporting agencies regarding an obligor's amounts paid and owed. Requires the attorney general's office to convene a council for the privatization of child support collection.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 597*
Permits electronic funds transfer between obligor and obligee for child support payments if approved by the Title IV-D agency and verified by the local child support registry.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 5.02, 5.03*
Requires that unemployed noncustodial parents who are in arrears in child support payments be referred to education and job training programs. Requires suspension of state licenses for failure to participate or for failure to pay.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 82, 84*
Provides for the prohibition of state loans, grants or contracts to those delinquent in child support.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 258*
Improves several methods for collecting child support: credit bureau reporting, new hires reporting, immediate income withholding, medical expense liability, contempt of court for noncompliance. Establishes parental liability for support of children who receive services from the state.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 59, Sec. 4(d) and 11-12*
Authorizes the family court to order a parent who is not complying with a child support order to participate in activities, such as employment or substance abuse counseling, to address the causes of noncompliance.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.5*
Applies child support laws to minor noncustodial parents who are not in compliance with school attendance laws and who have a child who receives AFDC.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 595*
Strengthens child support enforcement upon obligors who are in arrears for more than 90 days or by $5,000 or more. Allows obtaining copies of obligors' federal tax returns, license revocation, income withholding and out-of-state court ordered enforcement.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 88*
Requires interest to accrue on the outstanding principal of an unpaid child support obligation and determines how to calculate the interest. Requires the state lottery office to report winners' names to the enforcement division for potential identification of delinquent obligors. Requires payment be made from prize money. Allows the release of an obligor's tax return information to the division.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 12*
Allows publishing the identities of significantly delinquent obligors by any means deemed appropriate.

Guidelines/Modifications/Extended Support

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1353*
Determines conditions for terminating alimony and child support orders.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 415*
Repeals the simplified procedure for modification of child or spousal support orders. Requires the judicial council to develop a simplified income and expense form for determining child support under statewide guidelines; and to develop guidelines for use of the simplified or the standard income and expense form.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 906, Sec. 1*
Allows the court to lower the amount of child support indicated in the guidelines for low-income obligors.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 326*
Revises the formula and methods for determining the amount of child support.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 107*
Amends parentage law to allow petitioning by a parent to require support for an adult or minor child or an incompetent adult child whether or not petition is made before child attains age of majority.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 258*
Extends sunset date on child support guidelines to July 1, 1997.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 264*
Establishes that a child support judgment remains in effect for 23 years or until five years after child reaches the age of majority, whichever occurs first.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 320*
Authorizes child support payments to the person or entity responsible for providing physical care of the child.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 115, Sec. 11, 12*
Establishes a monthly child support payment of $25 for a parent who is 19 years or younger and who has not received a high school diploma. Requires the court to include a rationale for changing the date support is due in a modified order.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1121*
Changes the child support guidelines and allows for deviations under certain circumstances. Creates guidelines for claiming child support as a tax deduction.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SR 34*
Urges the Select Committee on Minorities, Women and Children to study the feasibility of increasing the child support age of majority to 23 if the child remains in college.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 10, 12-13, 24—Allows the destruction of records for those whose driver's license is improperly suspended. Specifies payment verification provisions for issuing, reinstating and renewing suspended licenses. Modifies the procedures for occupational license suspension to provide for hearings conducted by the court, an administrative law judge or the public authority instead of by the licensing boards. Includes special notice and hearing provisions for the public authority cases.

Sec. 18—Allows the court to deviate downward from the guidelines in determining liability for past child support under certain conditions.

Sec. 21—Adds unwarranted denial of or interference with, a visitation schedule as reason for the court to modify a custody order.

Sec. 23—Modifies child support guidelines concerning child-care cost allocations, noncustodial-parent child care and allowances for court deviations from guidelines.

Sec. 27—Requires that a payment agreement modification plan must be considered in light of the amount of arrearages, current support and earnings of the obligor.

Sec. 31—Allows the court to order a reduction in the allocation for child care expenses as of the date the expenses decreased.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3*
Sec. 11-12—Eliminates reference to termination of child support upon emancipation of a child and adds new provisions to deal with the effects of emancipation.

Sec. 17—Repeals the expedited procedure for modification of child support by the public authority.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, Sec. 452.340*
Requires the supreme court to include child support assessment in joint custody cases in the child support guidelines.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 524/L.B. 524A*
Allows assignment of child, spousal or medical support to the state during the time a child is a ward of the state. Entitles the custodial parent to receive child, spousal or medical support during the time when the child is not a ward of the state. Appropriates funds to carry out the act.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 220*
Requires those responsible and chargeable for a state or county ward's support to pay directly to the state or county for the minor's support.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 142*
Changes the formula by which child support is calculated partly based upon the amount of time the child spends with each parent.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 652*
Requires that the noncustodial parent of a person in need of supervision (PINS) be notified that he or she may be subject to child support proceedings.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155, Sec. 5*
Provides the court with continuing jurisdiction to modify future support.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 415*
Includes certain veteran's benefits in the definition of "gross income" for child support purposes.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 355*
Corrects the way that expenses for child care and health insurance are calculated in determining child support in split custody cases. Eliminates a prohibition against a child support enforcement agency ordering an amount of child support for reasonable and ordinary uninsured medical and dental expenses.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 219*
Requires the clerk of the court to send payments generated by judicial orders of support or alimony directly to the payee.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II*
Sec. 10—Allows rebuttal to the presumption that the amount of an award for child support that would result from the application of guidelines is the correct amount. Provides that a different amount may be awarded if it is shown that application of the guidelines in a particular case would be unjust or inappropriate.

Sec. 3-20-7-9565—Permits the division or the obligor to request modification of an existing order at any time after the entry of a consent order or an order for default.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 144*
Allows petitions to modify out-of-state support orders under certain circumstances and maintains state's jurisdiction over support orders issued within the state.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 85*
Increases the age of majority for children to receive child support from 15 to 17.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 1*
Changes the formula used for calculating the amount of child support when obligor's monthly income exceeds $10,000.

VA *1995 Va. Laws, Chap. 261*
Permits both parties in a child support dispute to use a pre-litigation amount decree to rebut application of support guidelines.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chapters 593 and 600*
Allows the state to issue orders for extending child support to people aged 19 who attend high school full-time.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 236*
Requires that Social Security benefits paid on the behalf of the recipient's children count toward the recipient's child support obligation. Removes the recipient's right to claim self-reimbursement for those benefits.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 174*
Changes formula used to determine child support payments.

Health or Medical Support

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1179*
Places new requirements on health insurance companies to ensure coverage for children. Authorizes income garnishment for health care.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1269, Sec. 33-46*
Clarifies what is considered reasonable costs for health care coverage and makes technical changes.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 466*
Requires the court to give each parent notice of his or her rights and obligations regarding health care costs of the child. Prescribes payment and reimbursement requirements.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 257*
Creates the birth-related cost recovery program for birth parents to reimburse the state when possible. Determines degree of liability incurred by the noncustodial parent.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 47*
Makes permanent the requirement that insurers extend health insurance coverage to adopted infants.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995, Sec. 68*
Adds medical child support provisions from the federal Social Security Act to the state code.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 133-1995*
Requires parental reimbursement for birth-related expenses paid by Medicaid if paternity has been established. Makes provisions for medical coverage to be part of child support and sets regulations for the insurer to follow.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 52, Sec. 3*
Provides that a notice of support debt include notice of duty to provide medical support rather than a demand for payment.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 236*
Authorizes a court to require that a child's health insurance be provided by either parent. Requires the court to consider the availability of insurance, income and employment of each parent.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 426*
Allows enforcement of medical support orders by wage withholding.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 707*
Prohibits insurers under specified circumstances from denying coverage to a dependent child when medical coverage is part of a support order. Sets other provisions for insurers to follow relative to medical support orders.

MI *1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 429*
Establishes specific conditions of parental liability for state medical expenses incurred on behalf of a dependent child and entitles the state to withhold wages or state tax refunds.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 207, Art. 6*
Sec. 3—Requires that employers and third-party insurance payers must provide requested information to county child support enforcement agencies.

Sec. 11—Requires an employer or union to immediately enroll obligors and their dependents in health plans when there is a court order for medical child support.

Sec. 17—Prohibits excluding a child from health coverage on the grounds that the child was born out of wedlock and requires compliance with court orders for coverage in such cases, as well as in cases of divorce.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 207, Art. 10*
Sec. 15—Provides that compliance with a state court's medical support order constitutes compliance with a qualified order under ERISA. Requires the order to contain names and addresses of dependents unless the custodial parents are ordered to provide the information to the health plan.

Sec. 16—Requires that a copy of the medical support court order be forwarded to the health or dental insurance plans and the employers of paying parents who fail to provide written proof that coverage was obtained.

Sec. 17—Requires an employer or union to immediately enroll obligors and their dependents in health plans when there is a court order for medical child support.

Sec. 18, 19—Requires that insurance identification cards be issued and coverage information be provided to the obligee and custodial parent. Prohibits a health insurer from disenrolling a child covered under a medical support order except under certain conditions. Modifies employer and obligor responsibilities concerning medical support withholding.

Sec. 20—Allows for the recovery, through income withholding, of insurance payments made to the insured parent rather than to the custodial parent.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1, Sec. 19*
Modifies employer and obligor responsibilities concerning withholding for medical support.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 48.2, 60.1, 63.4, 66*
Requires that medical coverage be part of child support orders and precludes distinctions regarding adopted or illegitimate children. Defines "child" and "order of medical coverage" in relation to child support.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 461*
Makes changes in health insurance provisions for children not living with the parent who is the policyholder.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 514*
Requires that medical insurance coverage be part of child support.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 150*
Establishes medical child support as the child's right. Prevents employers and insurers from denying or eliminating children's medical coverage under certain circumstances.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 6*
Assigns to the state the rights to any support, including health care expenses, which accrue to people who may apply for or receive public assistance or a foster care placement on behalf of a child or children.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 341*
Requires the attorney general's office to work with the appropriate state offices and local officials to create a statewide registry to track medical and child support enforcement. Expands and simplifies the existing voluntary new hires reporting program to allow development of a shared automated reporting system for child and medical support enforcement.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 175*
Allows a creditor to sue either or both parents for reasonable and necessary medical or dental expenses incurred for their dependent child. Makes both parents chargeable regardless of their marital status. Prohibits collecting from the parent who has already paid as required under an administrative or court order.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 88*
Requires child support obligors to provide information regarding availability of employer-sponsored medical coverage for their children. Allows withholding an obligor's wages or state tax refund to pay the child's medical expenses.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 18*
Requires employers with group health insurance to offer coverage to employee's children as part of child support and to withhold premiums from employee's paychecks. Allows recovery of health care costs through wage garnishment or other means from parents who received payment for their children's medical services, but misused the funds. Prevents health insurance carriers from declining coverage to dependent children under specified circumstances.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 144*
Requires medical coverage for children as part of child support if coverage can be obtained through the payor's work. Requires notice to clerk of court if that coverage terminates or lapses.

Income Withholding

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1075*
Determines how and when income withholding orders can be terminated.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 906, Sec. 2*
Provides for automatic payment of child support by wage assignment.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 959*
Determines that payments made through wage withholding are timely regardless of their receipt date.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 310*
Authorizes wage withholding through obligor's employer.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 288*
Changes regulations on wage withholding orders and child support liens placement for Title IV-D cases.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 125*
Allows the court or the office of child support to certify the true copy for an order to withhold wages. Requires allocating the amount withheld among multiple obligees. Prohibits wage withholding for support that is not being implemented.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 191*
Allows, instead of requires, the state to seek disposition without hearing in contested child support cases. Determines where to file administrative orders. Requires a court order to include wage withholding.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 201*
Reduces to $100 the penalty that may be imposed on an employer who refuses to employ or takes action against a parent subject to garnishment.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 133-1995*
Authorizes income-withholding orders through Title IV-D agencies to recover arrearages.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 52, Sec. 5-6*
Makes an income withholding order binding when the copy sent to the employer is not stamped by the court.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 207, Art. 10*
Sec. 21-24—Allows a custodial parent to receive child support through income withholding if the court determines that support previously has not been paid on a timely basis or the obligor has threatened to withhold payments. Creates remedies for employees under wage withholding orders who suffer reprisal from their employers. Sets the conditions under which a court may waive an automatic child support withholding requirement. Imposes a maximum $250 fine on an employer found guilty of contempt for not withholding court-ordered support.

Sec. 28—Requires the public authority to pay interest on excessive amounts of child support wrongfully withheld.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 3-6, 8—Revises income withholding requirements including: the conditions for income withholding; its use for reimbursement of child support or public assistance; and requirements relating to multiple orders to forward all cases to the public authority.

Sec. 16—Establishes a work reporting system for receiving and maintaining information from employers on newly hired workers and authorizes disclosure of the information for child support enforcement. Imposes civil penalties against employers who fail to comply.

Sec. 30—Defines contempt proceedings for nonpayment of child support and allows the court to order participation in a county work experience program until proof of gainful employment and submission to an order for income withholding is shown.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 2, Sec. 3*
Requires that local agencies provide a location within the agency to receive payments and transmit funds to the central collections unit. Includes provisions for incentive payments, electronic funds transfers and income withholding.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3, Sec. 9 and 10*
Requires the court to provide a copy of the withholding order to the public authority responsible for enforcement. Removes limiting orders to the county of origin.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 8.5, 13.8*
Creates guidelines for child support orders, including wage withholding. Sets guidelines for handling petitions made by public assistance recipients.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155, Sec. 2*
Requires that relevant sections of the law accompany income withholding orders.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 84*
Redefines the meaning of the term "income-withholding support order."

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 11*
Creates an "Employer New Hire Reporting" program through which employers may voluntarily report information concerning newly hired and rehired employees to the Child Support Enforcement Division.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 127*
Allows the court to order wage withholding in a child support case when orders of protection or a court approved consent agreement exist.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 714*
Requires that all initial child support orders carry a provision for wage withholding.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 88*
Authorizes immediate income withholding from inception of a child support application and when an obligor requests it.

Interstate Enforcement

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 57*
Repeals the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA). Enacts the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 251*
Repeals the Children's Code from the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA) and implements the Children's Code from the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). Defines terms under the act and outlines its obligations and limitations relative to child support and paternity establishment of interstate cases.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 130*
Establishes and clarifies interstate child support procedures by amending the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). Includes procedures to initiate actions and enforce support orders when parties live in different states.

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MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 3, Sec. 13*
Adds provisions to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act for compiling a list of other jurisdictions and Indian tribes that have similar procedures for issuing and enforcing support orders.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633, Sec. 8.5, 1-8*
Creates guidelines for initiating and establishing child support orders, including interstate order enforcement.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 157*
Adopts the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 3-20-7-9560*
Authorizes the division to establish and enforce all duties of support from an obligor if requested to do so by an agency of another state and under the laws of the other state.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 144*
Allows petitions to modify out-of-state support orders under certain circumstances.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 484*
Allows for registration of minors in the juvenile court and with the division of child support enforcement. Distinguishes foreign orders for support from foreign judgment orders.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 148*
Implements the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) by July 1, 1996, in place of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA). Provides definitions for the UIFSA and specifies its prescribed duties and provisions.

Paternity

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 57*
Authorizes the Child Support Enforcement Agency to determine paternity in an administrative action when the father admits paternity or genetic tests show paternity. Provides for court appeal.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1064*
Expedites the hearing process of Title IV-D child support and paternity cases.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1091*
Makes state code comply with federal requirements under Title IV-D in cases of voluntary paternity acknowledgment.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1178*
Allows scientific testing for paternity of a willing paternal relative, including DNA typing, when the probable father is unavailable.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1269, Sec. 51-54*
Clarifies the use of voluntary acknowledgment to establish paternity.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 28*
Requires petitioners for child custody or paternity establishment to disclose prior history of domestic abuse and restraining orders issued within 90 days of petitioning.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 106*
Presumes paternity if a genetic test indicates 99 percent probability. Considers voluntary acknowledgment sufficient to enforce a support obligation. Allows for subsequent objection to voluntary acknowledgment.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 31*
Simplifies process to change a birth certificate upon paternity determination.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 53*
Creates an affidavit process to establish paternity as a legal option to court-determined paternity.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 234*
Replaces the term "blood tests" with "genetic tests" in paternity determination. Adds voluntary acknowledgment and an affidavit process to evidentiary matters in establishing paternity.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995, Sec. 24, 63*
Requires the unwed mother of a dependent child to identify the child's putative father in order to qualify for AFDC. Outlines procedures for paternity establishment.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 133-1995*
Determines procedures for establishing paternity.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 52, Sec. 1, 2, 7, 9*
Provides that orders of support and paternity apply to the costs of foster care. Provides that paternity established by affidavit is only applicable if paternity has not been previously legally established. Provides for testing procedures to establish paternity. Specifies procedures for rebuttal and relieves misidentified fathers from child support obligations.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 425*
Allows paternity acknowledgment by notarial act in establishing support obligations. Creates a rebuttable presumption of paternity when acknowledged by a registry.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 697*
Requires hospitals and birthing centers to provide forms for voluntary paternity acknowledgment and empowers them to authenticate parents' signatures. Requires the department to provide the necessary forms and training. Requires an annual review of programs to establish paternity at birthing facilities.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 954*
Requires the mother of an illegitimate child to identify the child's father, if known. Establishes a process to serve a paternity notice. Allows the putative father to rebut his paternity after 90 days' notice and presumes his paternity if he does not respond. Orders blood tests in contested paternity cases. Establishes paternity when probability is 99.9 percent or higher. Requires child support orders when paternity has been positively established. Allows cost recovery by the putative father when paternity allegations are unfounded.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1144*
Creates a rebuttable presumption of paternity in certain cases when blood or tissue samples indicate a 99.9 percent probability.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1206*
Creates court procedures for paternity establishment.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-12*
Requires AFDC and ASPIRE JOBS participants to comply with child support enforcement and paternity determination efforts to maintain eligibility.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 419*
Authorizes specific child support enforcement techniques, including requiring medical facilities to provide voluntary paternity acknowledgment forms.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 248*

Specifies that paternity can be established anytime before the child's 18th birthday.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 207, Art. 10*

Sec. 12—Requires that objections to genetic test results be made in writing when court-ordered testing has occurred because of a party's refusal to settle a paternity action.

Sec. 14—Adds the costs of genetic tests to the assessed costs of paternity actions.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 216*

Allows changes to certain presumptions of paternity in some cases.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 4*

Sec. 3-4, 6-11—Creates a sunset date to acknowledge paternity. Presumes a man to be the father of a child if he and the mother admitted parentage when either or both were younger than 18 years of age. Requires the public agency to be made a party to all paternity actions where it is providing services; authorizes a default paternity order if a father fails to appear after service is made; and recognizes other states' paternity determinations. Allows genetic testing to determine paternity with the results admitted as evidence without foundation testimony or other proof of accuracy. Allows nonattorney employees of the public authority to request an administrative law judge to order parents and children to submit to blood or genetic tests. Failure to comply may result in a default determination. Authorizes the judge to order temporary child support if parentage is contested.

Sec. 9-10—Establishes parental liability for child support for up to two years before commencement of an action under the parentage statute and states that an action executed and filed by a minor parent creates a presumption of paternity.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 5, Sec. 2*

Strikes language limiting the administrative process to child support and reflects its applicability to parentage actions.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633*

Establishes an "expedited process" for voluntary paternity acknowledgment and procedures for establishing presumption of paternity and its rebuttal.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*

Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings or who is in violation of orders issued under child support, paternity, termination of parental rights, family offenses or child protection cases.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*

Sets conditions for requiring certain behavior in paternity and other proceedings.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 424*

Allows the court to determine a child's paternity after the putative father's death under specified circumstances.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 152*

Requires out-of-state paternity determinations to be considered. Provides a mechanism for voluntary acknowledgment of paternity. Requires hospitals to provide written materials to establish paternity and provides that Medicaid payment be withheld for failure to comply.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155, Sec. 3-5*

Allows the appointment of a guardian ad litem at the request of either party or by the court in paternity cases. Requires the court to enter an order establishing the existence of the father/child relationship where the alleged father defaults. Allows attorney's fees to be awarded.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 355*
Modifies paternity law. Makes changes concerning enforcement of all foreign paternity determinations or acknowledgments. Makes failure to plead or otherwise defend, a paternity action the basis for default judgment. Provides new objection procedures concerning genetic test results. Provides for dissemination of genetic test results, and requires the department to create a new form for acknowledgment of paternity.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 273*
Clarifies certain paternity actions as governed by the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 18*
Requires AFDC recipients to establish paternity of an absent parent in order to remain eligible to receive benefits.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 514*
Requires hospitals and other health care facilities to provide forms for voluntary acknowledgment of paternity when biological parents are not married. Requires payment of past support when paternity establishment has been delayed then confirmed.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 609*
Makes several changes to child support enforcement tactics, including time frames for paternity establishment by administrative order.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 9, 23*
Issues a cash incentive for AFDC recipients who provide material information in the establishment of paternity, payable upon the collection of support payments.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 150*
Improves procedures for acknowledgment of paternity.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II*
Sec. 3 20-7-9505—Assigns jurisdiction to the division for establishing paternity and for establishing and enforcing child support.

Sec. 3 20-7-9545—Authorizes the division to establish paternity at the negotiation conference based upon an application or receipt of services by the custodian.

Sec. 3 20-7-9550, 20-7-9555—Authorizes the division to issue a subpoena ordering an alleged father to submit to genetic testing with results admitted as evidence if a paternity case is referred to the Family Court.

Sec. 7-8—Authorizes the development of a program to promote voluntary acknowledgments of paternity as soon after birth as possible, preferably before release of the newborn from the hospital. Authorizes birthing hospitals to collect information for establishing paternity and child support as part of the registration process. Requires that for children born out-of-wedlock and upon receipt of a sworn acknowledgment of paternity signed by both parents, a certificate be prepared that includes the name of the father.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part IV, Sec. 7*
Requires AFDC recipients to establish paternity and provide information about absent parent to maintain eligibility.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part VI, Sec. 4*
Requires the division to serve an alleged father or fathers, with notice of paternity determination.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 144*
Authorizes the state to recover the costs of genetic testing in some cases.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 258*
Authorizes orders for genetic testing to determine paternity. Requires that voluntary acknowledgment of paternity may be signed only after the child's birth.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 59, Sec. 4(b)*
Specifies instances when the state may submit an affidavit attesting to parentage.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.5*
Allows social services to suspend AFDC if paternity is not established after 6 months of assistance and the agency determines that the recipient is uncooperative.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 88*
Requires hospitals and birthing centers to participate in the hospital-based paternity establishment program. Requires the state to provide information, telephone assistance and paternity affidavits to licensed obstetrical facilities. Requires those facilities to show evidence of implementing the program. Requires reports to the health department for facilities failing to comply. Outlines procedures for rebuttal of paternity based on blood or tissue tests. Determines how test costs will be paid. Requires the court to honor interstate paternity establishments and duties of support.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 190*
Requires hospitals and other health care facilities to furnish affidavits for presumption or rebuttal of paternity to anyone claiming to be the natural father of a child born out-of-wedlock and to forward signed affidavits to the state. Requires the state to furnish blank paternity affidavits to any facility requesting them.

CHILD WELFARE

Administration/Research

AR	*1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1222* Directs the Division of Youth Services and the Division of Family Services to issue reports on the performance of the child welfare system. Provides for performance audits of both divisions.
CA	*1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 950* Adds transitional shelter care to the list of community care facilities and requires licensing.
CA	*1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1038* Expands multidisciplinary service team record sharing policies statewide. Establishes data base for these purposes.
CT	*1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 44-46, 49* Transfers administrative authority for juvenile justice centers and certain juvenile and child welfare personnel to different departments.
CT	*1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 242* Establishes an independent child advocate office with broad responsibilities, including evaluating multiple state services, reviewing complaints and representing children.
FL	*1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 27* Creates a task force on family safety to examine: (1) the child welfare system and (2) issues of coordination between child protection, domestic violence agencies and law enforcement.
IA	*1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 10* Appropriates funds for child and family services. Directs the state to continue to decategorize child welfare services. Authorizes implementation of outcome-based child welfare projects.
KS	*1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 101* Expands the jurisdiction of citizen review boards to include juvenile offenders.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, SCR 84* Directs the Children's Cabinet to study and evaluate centralized coordination of children and family services. Requires a report to the legislature.
MD	*1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 193* Expands the composition of the subcabinet for Children, Youth and Families to include additional state agency representatives designated by the governor. Allows the subcabinet to choose any department or agency as its fiscal agent and changes "local planning entity" to "local management board."
MO	*1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 210.865* Requires the departments of social services, health, mental health and courts to coordinate their information systems to track individual children.
MT	*1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 25* Adds the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs.
MT	*1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 144* Changes the qualifications for the Indian Child Welfare Specialist.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83*

Sec. 231—Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

Sec. 236—Creates demonstration projects in specific areas to decentralize child welfare services to improve service delivery, increase adoptions and reduce the rate of foster care placements. Requires coordination with community schools and school health clinics.

Sec. 248—Requires the state to develop an automated child welfare information system.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 142*

Expands required qualifications for the children, youth and families director to include candidates with master's degrees in fields related to social work.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 144*

Creates a broad-based task force to recommend a comprehensive policy for children and families who need services due to poverty, dependency, disability, abuse or neglect. Requires recommendations on interagency communication, collaboration, reallocation of funds and changing the budget process.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 6, 14*

Creates a legislative panel for oversight of child welfare issues. Creates an independent panel as the final decision making body to hear and resolve consumer complaints relating to the division of Family Services. Repeals the legislative grievance council that previously advised upon consumer complaints.

Adoption

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 123*

Requires adoptive parents to reimburse the state for costs of prenatal care and delivery of a child adopted under the interstate adoption compact.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 221*

Limits putative fathers to 30 days after notice to assert an interest in their child before the adoption process continues without consent and the father is barred from bringing further action. Requires courts to permit a person to pay reasonable living expenses up to $500 for a birth parent prior to a hearing on such payments. Allows waiver of the hearing for good cause.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 226*

Prohibits racial preference adoption placement, except relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act. Prohibits removing a child from a foster parent's home solely because of the parent's application for adoption.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 266*

Provides access to child abuse records for preadoption investigations.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 285*

Limits state adoption subsidy program eligibility to applicants who have applied for existing federal IV-D assistance. Eliminates the foster parent income ceiling for state programs.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 535*

Provides an income tax credit for adoption expenses, subject to a formula.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 889*

Authorizes court-ordered visitation rights for former relatives of adoptees with certain exceptions.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 956*
Directs the department to consider a child's minority race or ethnic heritage in making foster care or adoption placements. Allows placement outside the child's race or ethnic group after attempts to locate a similar racial or ethnic family are unsuccessful.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1067*
Requires criminal background checks, including fingerprint tests, for prospective adoptive parents.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1284*
Disallows adoption agencies from withdrawing consent while still permitting biological parents 10 days to withdraw consent. Allows agencies to consent to adoptions when the petitioner has had custody of the child for 2 years and the court finds that this is in the best interests of the child.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap 324*
Gives potential adoptive parents the option of filing in juvenile court.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 179*
Allows genetic parents and adult biological siblings of an adult adoptee to request information to learn the identity of the adoptee. Changes consent requirements.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 316*
Sec. 9—Clarifies the rights of a child born out-of-wedlock to inherit through the child's genetic parents.

Sec. 14-16—Outlines circumstances under which the court may approve the adoption of a deceased child. Prohibits identifying an adopted person's genetic parents without their written consent when either was a party in proceedings to terminate parental rights.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 349*
Extends the time period for a child-placing license. Requires a staggered renewal schedule.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 382*
Places a 6-month limit on judicial challenges to adoption decrees.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 47*
Makes permanent the requirement that insurers extend health insurance coverage to adopted infants.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 161*
Allows qualified private individuals to conduct adoption home studies.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 267-1995*
Provides that consent for adoption is not required of fathers, if (1) the child was conceived due to sexual misconduct with a minor, (2) the parent is incarcerated for certain crimes against the child's mother or (3) the parent is incarcerated for certain crimes, including child abuse, against the child, sibling or step-sibling.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Deters listing a child on the state's adoption information exchange based upon age, treatment status or placement status.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205*
Appropriates funds for the adoption and foster care information system. Sets payment rates for foster care, shelter care and adoption subsidies.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 395*
Eliminates requirement of "adoption" printed on the birth certificate of a child adopted by a single parent, unless requested by the adopting parent.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1108*
Allows disclosure of nonidentifying medical records to children adopted before Sept. 11, 1981, without filing a petition for disclosure.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 290*
Establishes grandparents' rights to visit a child involved in adoption proceedings until the adoption is finalized. Permits grandparents access to the child if allowed by the adoptive parents.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 391*
Requires the collection and disclosure of certain information concerning a child before the child is placed for adoption.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 412*
Redefines birth parent as the legal parent, who is not necessarily the biological parent. Includes guardian in the definition of parent and limits guardian authority. Expands the venue for adoption petitions. Transfers adoption cases not finalized within a specific period of time to district court. Applies the federal Indian Child Welfare Act to state law. Provides the putative or legal father opportunity to waive his right to notice. Clarifies the judge's role regarding the consent or surrender and release. Allows adoption without counseling in cases in which one of the petitioners is a blood relative or the adoptee is an adult. Provides for adoption proceedings initiated in another state. Authorizes the court to appoint a GAL. Requires the court to attempt to notify the birth parents of the adoption's status after 18 months. Repeals the timetable for adoption. Allows child-placing agencies to conduct the adoption investigation. Expands expense limits. Applies the federal Multiethnic Placement Act to state law. Clarifies confidentiality provisions. Allows legal representation through the appeal. Eliminates "error" as a ground for annulment of an adoption.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 414*
Ensures that adoption assistance program benefits are available for families who adopted before Aug. 1, 1994.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 290*
Requires child placement agencies to provide any medical or nonidentifying information to an adoptee or birth parent of an adopted adult without a showing of need.

MI *1995 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 373*
Permits the children's ombudsman to inspect adoption records with regard to direct placement of adoptions.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 61*
Sets time limits covering when to list children on the adoption exchange and for the delivery of pertinent information.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 414, Sec. 135.326, 327, 329, 337*
Increases the tax credit to individuals for special needs adoptions. Creates a tax credit for businesses that provide funds to an employee for special needs adoptions.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, HB 232 and 485, Sec. 453.060*
Requires that when a child is being placed for adoption and the father's identity is unknown that service be completed by publication.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 326*
Requires state interim review of adoption laws as part of a permanent placement policy and plan to improve the process, including a report to the legislature.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 369, Sec. 1*
Eliminates the requirement for adoption consent from a biological parent who has been convicted of abusing the child.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 712*
Requires the state to establish a biological father registry for fathers of children born out-of-wedlock. Changes the timeframe to file a claim to establish paternity and eliminates the requirement for consent under certain circumstances. Requires identification and notification of the biological father in out-of-wedlock adoptions. Outlines procedures in cases where the father is or is not identified, presents a safety threat to the mother or child and where the father's consent is not required.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 294*
Creates a presumption that an adopted child's best interests are served by remaining with an adopting parent. Prohibits biological parents from bringing an action to set aside an adoption unless a court has separately set aside consent, relinquishment or reversed an order for termination of parental rights. Requires the entity facilitating the adoption to provide the adopting parents with medical and sociological information about the child.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 309*
Incorporates provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) into state adoption laws. Removes district court jurisdiction over adoption of a Native American child subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 633*
Requires that medical coverage be part of child support orders and disallows restrictions regarding adopted or illegitimate children.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 206, Sec. 43*
Allows an Indian child who is adopted access to information regarding the adoption for the purpose of enrolling his or her tribe of origin.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83*
Sec. 233-234—Prohibits an agency from referring a child to the adoption service when the child's foster parent has expressed a written interest in adopting the child and has not been disapproved or when the agency has identified potential placements. Allows demonstration projects in foster care agencies to increase flexibility over areas including adoption.

Sec. 236—Creates demonstration projects in specific areas to decentralize child welfare services to increase adoptions and reduce the rate of foster care placements. Requires coordination with community schools and school health clinics.

Sec. 249—Requires the state to biennially remind adoptive parents of child support obligations and of the need to notify social services if they are no longer providing support, in cases where the adoptive parents receive a maintenance subsidy for a handicapped or hard-to-place child.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*
Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings or who is in violation of orders issued under child support, paternity, termination of parental rights, family offenses or child protection cases.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 88*
Shifts appeals of superior court clerk decisions on adoption to the district court. Transfers to the district court cases where there are issues of fact.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 457*
Allows state jurisdiction depending on residency of the adoptee and prospective adoptive parent. Requires a petition to be filed within 30 days after placement. Requires a preplacement assessment, with exceptions, to address issues related to the suitability of the prospective parents. Authorizes district court jurisdiction over an adoption proceeding when the adoptee is subject to a pending juvenile proceeding until the final adoption order. Requires consent of the father under specific circumstances. Requires nonidentifying information about biological parents. Allows for parental consent. Provides for a certain revocation period. Allows a waiver of the minor's consent if it is not in the child's best interest, a waiver of all parties present and a waiver of spouse joining the petition. Provides for court consideration of release of the identity of an individual. Allows the biological parent or adoption facilitator solicitation of adoptive parents. Limits adoption advertising to certain professionals and agencies and provides penalties for violations. Allows adoptive parents to pay for certain medical expenses of the adoptee and provides penalties.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155, Sec. 7*
Provides that termination of parental rights does not terminate a parent's duty to pay child support prior to the child's adoption.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 92*
Creates an Adoption Law Reform Committee to recommend changes in adoption law.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 3*
Allows prospective adoptive parent access to child abuse report files.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 152*
Mandates insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage to adoptees and children placed for adoption.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 166*
Adds the definition of relevant parties to the state's voluntary adoption mutual consent registry act.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 82*
Permits out-of-state adoptions of children who have been in foster care for six months after being approved for adoption.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 411*
Defines facilitating or placing a child for adoption by people other than the natural parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians or licensed child-placing agencies as a misdemeanor with certain exceptions.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 412*
Clarifies adoption assistance, including financial and medical assistance, for special needs adoptions. Makes state law consistent with federal law and special needs programs.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.09*
Requires the state to claim Social Security funds for nonrecurring adoption expenses at the highest rate authorized by law.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751*
Sec. 21—Requires the Bureau of Vital Statistics, instead of the Department of Health, to maintain adoption records.

Sec. 69—Prohibits voluntary relinquishment of parental rights within 48 hours after the birth of a child.

Sec. 73—Clarifies that social studies are required in a private adoption.

Sec. 75—Requires the study to be paid for by the person seeking adoption.

Sec. 77—Requires prospective adoptive parents to provide criminal history information.

Sec. 123—Provides that the prohibition on consideration of race or ethnicity in placing a child for adoption does not apply to those covered by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 800*
Requires a full social study paid for by prospective parents in private adoptions.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 846*
Establishes appointment authority for staff of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance. Authorizes the administrator to return a child to the sending agency upon default of performance or failure to provide financially for the child. Allows the administrator to approve a child's discharge from a public institution without the agreement of the head of the institution. Sets penalties.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 879, Sec. 1*
Prohibits use of same race or ethnicity of child and family as a standard in adoption decisions unless justified by an independent psychological exam of the child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 908*
Requires criminal background checks for prospective adoptive parents.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 920, Sec. 8*
Creates an advisory committee on adopting minority children. Authorizes the state to implement a program based on the committee's recommendations. Prohibits recruitment of minority families from being used as a reason to delay an adoption with an available family of a different race or ethnicity.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 8-9*
Creates an adoptive parent registry for individuals willing to accept temporary foster care placement, without compensation, pending termination of parental rights. Requires the individual to sign a written statement agreeing to immediate removal of the child, if warranted by the department. Provides that a registered individual has the right to be considered first for adoption if the child's parental rights have been terminated. Requires the development of swift adoption teams to expedite adoptions for children in state custody.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 968*
Allows an adoptee age 18 or older to apply to a registry for information about his or her birth parents and biological siblings. Allows a birth parent age 18 or older to apply for information about an adoptee who is his or her child by birth.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 168*
Defines rights, limitations and responsibilities of unmarried biological fathers and other parties to adoption proceedings. Revises notice and consent requirements for unmarried biological fathers, excludes cases of sexual assault from these requirements.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 12*
States that if reunification is not the goal for a child age 3 or under, that adoption must be the goal, except under extenuating circumstances.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 270*

Requires a needs assessment every five years for state financial support for adoptive parents. Eliminates the requirement that adoptive parents automatically file their federal income tax returns. Directs a state study of extending enhanced services for special needs children, available in foster care, to the adoption support program. Sets time limits and administrative procedures for summons and notice of termination petitions. Limits grounds for adoption challenges.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311, Sec. 18, 20, 22*

Revises the list of people not included in the definition of an agency. Expands the list of people defined as related to a child. Sets timeline for the completion of the adoption process. Specifies a goal of six months to complete an adoption following termination of parental rights. Clarifies guidelines for issuing initial licenses to agencies, facilities and foster family homes. Requires the court to hold a hearing prior to modifying or terminating the guardianship of a dependent child.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 170 -*

Establishes a putative father registry, with registration as an affirmative assertion of paternity. Requires those registered to be notified of a proposed adoption.

Family Preservation/Permanency Plans

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 545*

Requires all court orders that remove a child from his or her home to contain a finding that the best interests of the child were considered and that reasonable efforts were made or were inappropriate due to emergency or unsafe conditions.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 779*

Authorizes the juvenile court to order a juvenile and his or her parents to perform up to 160 hours of community service or to attend parental responsibility training.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 961*

Outlines a county-based planning process for implementation of the 1993 Family Preservation and Support Act including service definitions, financing mechanisms for planning and services and legislative intent to support a coordinated, seamless service system including both family preservation and support services.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 238*

Reduces the time of state custody for abused or dependent children. Requires a hearing on extended commitment to determine the appropriateness of continuing family reunification efforts and a specific finding regarding action to be taken if reunification is not appropriate.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 4, 10*

Clarifies that strengthening family life and family preservation is a priority in child welfare services.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*

Requires the department and the Judicial Department to give additional education to their employees regarding reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate a child's out-of-home placement. Requires area education agencies, as a part of in-service school employee training, to include mental or emotional disorder education that may affect children and the impact of the disorders on the family. Requires similar training of judges and other court employees who handle cases involving children or family law. Requires permanency plans to include the actions expected of a child's parent, custodian or guardian in working toward the end of the child's out-of-home placement.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 10-15, 16*

Authorizes the state agency to develop a pilot kinship project to encourage family involvement in permanency planning and a subsidized guardianship program for children who have a permanency order.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 167.126—Requires school districts to educate a child placed in that district by court order or by the mental health or social services department.

Sec. 219.089—Authorizes pilot residential group homes for children to provide them and their families with services to promote self-sufficiency and to reunite them with relatives or place them in foster care.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 15, 17*
Requires the state to notify parents or caretakers of children of state prisoners about services available to children and families.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 739, Sec. 1*
Adds courts to the agencies affected by the Family Policy Act. Directs agencies to consider the best interest of the child when providing services to families and children and to consider the child's safety in family reunification.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 320*
Prohibits releasing a child who is in protective custody to a parent who has been convicted of child abuse, unless evidence is presented that the child will not be harmed.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 238*
Authorizes the state to issue rent subsidies to a family when lack of adequate housing is a factor that may cause a child to be placed in foster care.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 151, Sec. 6*
Requires county agencies to provide general protective services. Defines general protective services to include assessment and delivery of services to ensure children's well-being and to preserve and stabilize family life where appropriate.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.05*
Expands the number of agencies involved in developing parenting classes and specifies program topics that include instruction on the necessity of physical and emotional safety for children.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 229*
Requires the Education Board to be responsible for the education of children under 21 who are in the custody of a Native American Tribe agency equivalent to the department.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302*
Sec. 12—Requires that if reunification is not the goal for a child age 3 or under, adoption must be the goal, except under extenuating circumstances.

Sec. 25, 30—Removes the requirement that reunification services are to be ordered by the court at the shelter hearing. Eliminates the discretionary four-month extension of reunification services beyond the 12-month period, when the court orders continued removal at the dispositional hearing. Creates a presumption that reunification services will not be provided if parental rights have been terminated for any other child or if the child, regardless of age, has suffered severe abuse by the parent or by a person known to the parent.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 396*
Provides that parents make a financial contribution for at-risk services received by their families.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 53*
Allows a permanency plan to include independent living. Requires the court to find that the services to be provided for the child's transition from foster care to independent living will allow the child to manage his or her own affairs. Prohibits the discharge of a child under 18 to independent living, unless the child becomes emancipated.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311, Sec. 1-12, 20*
Defines family preservation services (FPS). Outlines methods of service delivery, community and agency coordination and training for FPS staff. Sets standards of performance for service providers and requires the collection of data regarding outcomes. Establishes an interagency council to develop a statewide family preservation plan. Clarifies preventive services. Allows funding to be transferred from foster care to purchase family preservation services for children at imminent risk of placement.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 177*
Requires prosecutors to consider various alternatives, such as mental health counseling, community programs, family preservation services and truancy statutes, when recommending actions regarding children in need of services.

Financing/Training

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 533, Sec. 10*
Authorizes a court to determine, if a family is found in need of services, the parent's or guardian's ability to pay, in whole or in part, the services.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 958*
Amends the state Title IV-E plan to allow federal financial participation in temporary foster care placements in public child care institutions with licensed capacities exceeding 25 children.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 961*
Authorizes certain counties and cities to request a permanent transfer of funds generally used for out of home placement for the provision of family preservation services and expands the types of general funds that can be transferred.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205*
Sec. 1C, 12—Allows medical assistance funding for case management services for eligible youth to be used in counties with child welfare decategorization projects. Continues planning groups in judicial districts to review expenditures for court-ordered services to juveniles. Prohibits the courts from ordering any state-paid services if there are insufficient funds or from ordering the county to pay for such services.

Sec. 10—Appropriates funds for child and family services. Directs the state to continue to decategorize child welfare services. Authorizes implementation of outcome-based child welfare projects.

Sec. 10, 24, 26—Appropriates funds for the adoption and foster care information system. Sets payment rates for foster care, shelter care and adoption subsidies. Directs the department to develop a plan to improve reimbursement for family foster care.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 696*
Changes the agency responsible for foster care training. Authorizes the development of specific training requirements for relatives of a foster child and for foster parents who care for a specific child. Outlines training requirements for certain staff.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 81*
Increases the amount the state may reimburse a foster parent for injury or damage caused by a foster child, without approval of the Board of Public Works.

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 358*
Authorizes counties to donate money for maintenance of residential group homes for abused or neglected children.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 524/L.B. 524A*
Allows assignment of child, spousal or medical support to the state during the time a child is a ward of the state. Entitles the custodial parent to receive child, spousal or medical support during the time when the child is not a ward of the state. Appropriates funds to carry out the act.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 220*
Requires those responsible and chargeable for a state or county ward's support to pay directly to the state or county for the minor's support.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83*
Sec. 231—Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

Sec. 238—Authorizes the state to issue rent subsidies to a family when lack of adequate housing is a factor that may cause a child to be placed in foster care.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 652*
Requires that the noncustodial parent of a person in need of supervision (PINS) be notified that he or she may be subject to child support proceedings.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 78*
Enacts the Human Services Development Fund to give counties flexibility in providing social services to populations that include dependent and delinquent children.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 6*
Assigns to the state the rights to any support, including health care expenses, which accrues to people who may apply for or receive public assistance or a foster care placement on behalf of a child or children.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 117*
Assigns to the state any support rights attributable to a child placed in foster care.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 25, 30*
Removes the requirement that reunification services are to be ordered by the court at the shelter hearing. Eliminates the discretionary four-month extension of reunification services beyond the 12-month period, when the court orders continued removal at the dispositional hearing. Creates a presumption that reunification services will not be provided if parental rights have been terminated for any other child or if the child, regardless of age, has suffered severe abuse by the parent or by a person known to the parent.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 396*
Provides that parents make a financial contribution for at-risk services received by their families.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 817*
Requires the parents of a child who has been placed in foster care by the court to pay child support directly to the state.

Legal Procedures/Policy/Records

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 266*
Requires editing of reports of child welfare agencies to protect the identity of the reporter, the victim, the victim's parents and the subject of the investigation.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 404*
Requires the department to provide a report to the court and opposing parties within seven days of a periodic review hearing in dependency-neglect or family-in-need-of-services cases where the child is in an out-of-home placement.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 533*
Sec. 4—Authorizes the court to issue an order for emergency custody to remove a juvenile from a parent's or guardian's custody if there is probable cause to believe that immediate removal is necessary to protect the juvenile's health or physical well-being.

Sec. 11—Authorizes a court to enter an order to grant permanent custody to a person upon proof that the parent or guardian from whom the juvenile has been removed has not complied with court orders and that no further services or periodic reviews are required.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 461*
Requires the court to make a finding either in writing or on the record regarding a child's placement with a parent.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1038*
Expands multidisciplinary service team record sharing policies statewide. Establishes database for these purposes.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1007*
Clarifies criteria to appeal juvenile dependency cases.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 50*
Increases the time period that a standby guardian can take over guardianship.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, Chap. 225*
Sec. 10—Divides juvenile matters in superior court into: (a) civil matters including neglect, families with service needs, termination of parental rights and emancipation; and (b) delinquency.

Sec. 28-30—Allows emancipation when it is in the best interest of the minor's child, the minor or the minor's parents. Allows referees who have been superior court judges to hear juvenile matters.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 238*
Reduces the time of state custody for abused or dependlent children. Requires a hearing on extended commitment to determine the appropriateness of continuing family reunification efforts and a specific finding regarding action to be taken if reunification is not appropriate.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 304, Sec. 2*
Directs the schools to file a family with a service needs complaint when parents do not attend a truancy meeting.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 5*
Requires that indigent parents be appointed counsel when faced with criminal charges based on a dependency petition or with permanent loss of custody..

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 10*
Sets a target for the daily average number of children in foster care. Requires a formula to be developed to allocate targeted numbers by region. Limits length of placement for foster care children funded by SSI to two years. Allows a contract to be let to secure SSI benefits for foster care children.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 696*
Prohibits the release of confidential information to prospective foster parents.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 405*
Allows children to personally address the court in hearings concerning parental rights and responsibilities when domestic abuse is involved.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 177*
Requires parents subject to a child-in-need-of-assistance proceeding to notify the local social services department of any changes in address.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 188*
Requires that a court-appointed attorney for a child, paid for by a local agency, be under contract with the state, with an exception.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 425*
Requires a disposition hearing in a child-in-need-of-assistance proceeding to be held on the same day as an adjudicative hearing, unless the court finds a good cause to delay it.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 460, Sec. 210.761*
Allows individuals who have provided foster care within two years to testify at placement hearings.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 16*
Allows the state or a parent to request emancipation, and changes certain emancipation criteria.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 17*
Requires that when sanctions are imposed that reduce AFDC benefits, the children's agency be notified that children in that household are at-risk.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 76*
Outlines a legal procedure to appoint a standby guardian in cases where a parent suffers from a progressively chronic or fatal illness.

NM *1995 N.M. Laws, Chap. 207*
Consolidates abuse or neglect and mental health proceedings. Creates position of resource consultants to assist families in finding appropriate and least restrictive services for their children. Provides for the appointment of a guardian ad litem for certain children 14 years and older.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*
Sets conditions for issuing certain orders requiring conditions of behavior in child support, paternity, guardianship, custody or family offense proceedings.

NC *1995 N.C. Laws, Chap. 313*
Outlines a legal procedure to appoint a standby guardian in cases where a parent suffers from a progressively chronic or irreversible fatal illness.

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ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 255*
Places a guardian or custodian of a child patient with durable power of attorney on the priority list of who may give informed consent for health care or incapacitation.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 301*
Provides flexibility to the court in determining where to hear a deprivation case.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 147*
Allows the department to waive the license requirement for a child welfare agency if the agency is similarly regulated by another state department. Allows release of child abuse and neglect case records to the tribal agency providing child welfare services under state contract.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 612*
Creates a presumption that it is not in the best interest of a ward to appoint as a guardian a person convicted of assaulting an elderly or disabled individual.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 751, Sec. 5*
Allows peace officers with lawful custody of a minor to consent to medical treatment for the minor.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 4*
Requires the removal of an alleged perpetrator rather than the child from the home if the department determines that such removal would protect the child.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302*
Sec. 12—Requires that if reunification is not the goal for a child age 3 or under, adoption must be the goal, except under extenuating circumstances.

Sec. 25, 27, 28, 30, 31—Establishes deadlines for shelter, pretrial, adjudication and dispositional hearings. Removes the requirement that reunification services are to be ordered by the court at the shelter hearing. Eliminates the discretionary four-month extension of reunification services beyond the 12-month period, when the court orders continued removal at the dispositional hearing. Creates a presumption that reunification services will not be provided if parental rights have been terminated for any other child or if the child, regardless of age, has suffered severe abuse by the parent or by a person known to the parent. Requires foster parents to receive notice of the adjudication hearing.

Sec. 34—Requests the Supreme Court to promulgate rules allowing the use of retired or pro tempore judges for one year to render dispositions for children in protective custody for 18 months or longer.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 355*
Extends the Citizen Review Panel Pilot Project and expands the implementation of the project. Requires panel members to represent the diversity of the community.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311*
Sets administrative procedures for releasing health, disciplinary, behavioral and special educational records of new students to school districts. Authorizes a petition to the juvenile court to gain access to records or information. Details administrative procedures and authorizes the court to grant the petition upon showing that the information is necessary for the health, safety or welfare of the child. Eliminates some restrictions on releasing records to the public.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 313*
Allows a child's relatives or foster parents to attend all hearings and proceedings pertaining to the child. Requires the court to give preference for placement with a relative.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 177*
Requires prosecutors to consider various alternatives, such as mental health counseling, community programs, family preservation services and truancy statutes, when recommending actions regarding children in need of services.

Out-of-Home Placement/Foster Care

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 226*
Prohibits removing a child from a foster parent's home solely because of the parent's application for adoption.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 404*
Requires the department to provide a report to the court and opposing parties within seven days of a periodic review hearing in dependency-neglect or family-in-need-of-services cases where the child is in an out-of-home placement.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 445*
Creates the Kinships Foster Care program and provides that relatives receive the same benefits as other foster parents.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Acts 765 and 809*
Establishes guidelines for the out-of-state placement of emotionally disturbed youth.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 956*
Directs the department to consider a child's minority race or ethnic heritage in making foster care or adoption placements. Allows placement outside the child's race or ethnic group after attempts to locate a similar racial or ethnic family are unsuccessful.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1337*
Provides that the "best interest of the child" standard be applied in human services and juvenile court recommendations regarding placement of abused and neglected children.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 199*
Continues the current requirements for foster care homes that serve severely emotionally disturbed children.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 546*
Broadens the educational requirements for social work personnel in family foster agencies.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 663*
Requires the department to make a diligent effort to maintain sibling togetherness and contact in foster care placements.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 790*
Makes technical changes to a foster family pilot program for emotionally disturbed children. Authorizes placement of two emotionally disturbed siblings in the same foster home.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1267*
Expands the criminal record check for licensed child care or foster care facilities to include arrest records for serious crimes, instead of records of those awaiting trial. Prohibits the state from using an arrest record to deny, revoke or terminate an applicant unless it investigates. Allows exemptions. Authorizes the department of justice to access social services licensing records and deny Trustline applications.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 349*
Extends the time period for child care licenses and requires a staggered renewal schedule, adds definitions and clarifies "child care agency" to mean a congregate setting for out-of-home placement.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 223*
Clarifies that dependent children from foreign countries and territories cannot be placed in foster care, relative placements or residential child care without approval from the state.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228*
Sec. 1—Makes it a felony to lure or entice a child for an illegal purpose.

Sec. 5—Specifies that child placement should be in a place free of drug and alcohol abuse and that efforts to minimize disruptions to a child's education should be taken in making out-of-home placements.

Sec. 6-7—Outlines grounds for taking a child alleged to be dependent into custody. Requires a legal review before an emergency shelter hearing and requires return of the child if probable cause does not exist. Requires parental notification and participation in the hearing and specifies deadlines.

Sec. 27—Creates a task force on family safety to examine: (1) the child welfare system and (2) issues of coordination between child protection, domestic violence agencies and law enforcement.

Sec. 62—Outlines conditions for long-term foster care to be considered as a permanency placement and authorizes stopping or continuing supervision even when the placement is considered stable.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-614, Sec. 2.1*
Requires the department to ensure enough placements to meet the needs of children as determined in individual case planning.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 52, Sec. 1*
Provides that orders of support and paternity apply to the costs of foster care.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Requires permanency plans to include the child's parent, guardian or custodian and the actions expected of each in working toward the termination of the out-of-home placement. Requires notification to the people providing the foster care placements of any hearings relating to the child. Requires the court—in extending an out-of-home placement beyond 12 months—to enumerate the basis for the determination that the need for removal will not exist at the end of an additional six-month period.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205*
Sec. 10-16—Sets a target for the daily average number of children in foster care. Requires a formula to be developed to allocate targeted numbers by region. Limits length of placement for foster care children funded by SSI to two years. Allows a contract to be let to secure SSI benefits for foster care children.

Sec. 24-26—Appropriates funds for the adoption and foster care information system. Sets payment rates for foster care, shelter care and adoption subsidies. Directs the department to develop a plan to improve reimbursement for family foster care. Authorizes a pilot kinship project to encourage family involvement and a subsidized guardianship program for children who have a permanency order.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 268*
Authorizes the court to overrule child placement if it is in the child's best interest. Requires annual reviews of temporary child custody arrangements with relatives.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 696*
Prohibits the release of confidential information to prospective foster parents. Changes the agency responsible for foster care training. Authorizes the development of specific training requirements for relatives of a foster child and for foster parents who care for a specific child. Outlines training requirements for certain staff.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 160*
Requests a feasibility study on requiring criminal background checks on people seeking a position of supervisory or disciplinary authority over children.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 405*
Deletes the requirement that face to face contact between a child and a guardian ad litem occur in the home or foster home.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 11*
Requires the court, when removing a child from home, to determine the cause for removal and to notify the parents that the reunification plan for the child may change to another permanency plan which may include termination of parental rights if they do not make significant progress to remedy the circumstances that caused the removal.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 81*
Increases the amount the state may reimburse a foster parent for injury or damage caused by the foster child, without approval of the Board of Public Works.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 298*
Requires a criminal background investigation for an adult residing in a foster care home or child care home.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 546*
Establishes a Kinship Care program and gives priority to out-of-home placement with kinship when available.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 242*
Creates a presumption that conditions leading to out-of-home placement will not be corrected based on parental noncompliance with court orders.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 115 and 326, Sec. 219.089*
Authorizes pilot residential group homes for boys to provide at-risk children and families with services to promote self-sufficiency of the children and to reunite them with relatives or place them in foster care.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 460*
Sec. 210.761—Allows individuals who have provided foster care within two years to testify at placement hearings.

Sec. 210.775, 776—Creates a broad based task force on foster care and group home placement.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 386*
Places the citizen review boards under the aegis of the Supreme Court, rather than youth courts, establishes member immunity and allows the state 17 days to provide written responses to a board's recommendations.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 494*
Requires a criminal history check of family members before placement and clarifies other placement considerations.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 564, Sec. 1, 3*
Establishes a new policy to ensure that children are entitled to maintain ethnic, cultural and religious heritage in out-of-home placements. Prohibits a child from being removed from the home based solely on an unsubstantiated allegation of abuse.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 15*
Requires a report on the progress of the foster care review pilot program.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 402*
Extends licenses for foster homes from one to two years and relaxes expiration dates. Allows the state to issue a provisional license and specifies fees.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 451*
Authorizes separate licensing standards for Native American foster homes located outside the boundaries of a reservation. Creates an advisory committee.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 739, Sec. 1*
Directs the state to minimize the number of out-of-home placements while considering the safety and best interests of the child.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 218*
Creates a presumption that termination of parental rights is in the child's best interest when (1) the child has been in an out-of-home placement for most of one year and (2) the parents fail to comply with the family reunification plan.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 309*
Incorporates provisions of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act into the state's statutes governing placement and foster care.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 231*
Sec. 223—Requires that agreements with Indian tribes to provide foster care, preventive and adoptive services to Indian children comply with state law in addition to federal law as already required.

Sec. 231—Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

Sec. 233-234—Prohibits an agency from referring a child to the adoption service when the child's foster parent has expressed a written interest in adopting the child and has not been disapproved or when the agency has identified potential placements.

Sec. 236—Creates demonstration projects in specific areas to decentralize child welfare services to improve service delivery, increase adoptions and reduce the rate of foster care placements. Requires coordination with community schools and school health clinics.

Sec. 238—Authorizes the state to issue rent subsidies to a family when lack of adequate housing is a factor that may cause a child to be placed in foster care.

Sec. 239—Requires the state to place preventive services in areas with a high rate of child abuse, neglect and foster care placements and to give community-based organizations priority when awarding contracts.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 454*
Reduces the time for court review of foster care placements to 12 months. Allows foster care placement to be extended and requires the court to consider the child's best interests in out-of-state placements.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 507, Sec. 23.26*
Requires state and local criminal history and fingerprint checks for foster care providers. Requires national checks for certain providers. Prohibits services by providers determined unfit. Lists crimes to be checked. Provides for confidentiality, limited immunity for compliant employers and the right to challenge a license denial.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 304*
Allows state agency access to juvenile records in licensing a facility to provide foster care.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 222*
Deletes foster family homes from requiring criminal history checks. Requires a criminal history check for any adult residing in a family day care home. Allows for release of information to another child care facility or day care center considering the individual for employment.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 353, Sec. 16-17*
Clarifies that out-of-home placement should be in the best interests of the child and that the state is to determine the appropriate placement.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 38*
Outlines requirements to place emotionally disturbed children in out-of-state settings.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 82*
Permits out-of-state adoptions of children who have been in foster care for six months, following approval for adoption.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 95*
Prohibits people who have been reported for child abuse or convicted of certain crimes from serving on a foster care review board or working for the foster care division or the governor. Requires records check.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 98*
Gives the department responsibility for tuition costs for students in residential treatment or group care centers.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.09*
Defines "child in substitute care" and specifies that the classification is not automatically eligible for foster care payments.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 879, Sec. 2*
Prohibits use of same race or ethnicity of child and family as a standard in foster care decisions unless justified by an independent psychological exam of the child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 920, Sec. 7*
Expands the list of people subject to criminal history checks and those with access to criminal history information. Authorizes the state to charge a fee for criminal history checks.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943*
Sec. 1—Provides for expedited hearings and appeals in certain cases where out-of-home placement is necessary due to an immediate danger to the physical health or safety of the child.

Sec. 8—Creates an adoptive parent registry for individuals willing to accept temporary foster care placement, without compensation, pending termination of parental rights. Requires the individual to sign a written statement agreeing to immediate removal of the child if warranted by the department. Provides that registered individuals have the right to be considered first for adoption if the child's natural parents have lost their parental rights.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 142*
Allows for involuntary commitment of children under age 18 in state hospitals by a parent or guardian, if an independent fact finder determines the admission is appropriate. Requires the establishment of procedures to protect the due process rights of such minors.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302*
Sec. 9—Requires the parents or relatives of a minor taken into protective custody to be furnished with a telephone number, rather than the location of the minor.

Sec. 11, 26—Requires the Division of Family Services to have direct access to criminal background information for child abuse screenings and investigations. Specifies the scope of court-ordered investigations performed at the home of a noncustodial parent or relative in which a child is to be placed.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 355*
Extends the Citizen Review Panel Pilot Project and expands the implementation of the project. Requires panel members to represent the diversity of the community. Increases the pilot project's steering committee membership.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 401*
Clarifies that background checks apply to board members and others who work with agency children. Expands the definition of "person" to include legal entities.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 817*
Requires the parents of a child who has been placed in foster care by the court to pay child support directly to the state.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 204*
Requires the development of a consistent review process of the deaths of all children in certain state residential facilities.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 270*
Directs a state study of extending enhanced services for special needs children, available in foster care, to the adoption support program.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 302*
Sec. 4-6—Requires fingerprinting of applicants for a child care or foster care license, their employees and others with unsupervised access to children when they have not resided in the state for the previous three years. Requires that fingerprint costs be paid by the licensee, with an exception. Provides justification for state denial of foster family home licenses and permits sanctions. Requires training in child development and child protection for administrative law judges who preside over license denial, suspension or revocation hearings.

Sec. 7—Allows for six months of probationary child care and foster care licenses under certain circumstances for temporarily noncompliant licensees or for those who have received multiple complaints or concerns.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311*
Sec. 2—Re-defines "out-of-home placement" and "agency."

Sec. 18-20—Expands the list of people defined as related to a child. Clarifies licensing guidelines for agencies, facilities and foster family homes.

Sec. 22-23—Requires a needs assessment of each child placed in care. Outlines procedures for notifying relatives and others who might provide appropriate placements.

Sec. 26-27—Requires the court to hold a hearing prior to modifying or terminating the guardianship of a dependent child. Gives a timeline for informing foster parents or relatives of a permanency planning hearing.

WA *1995 Wash Laws, Chap. 313*
Requires the court to give preference for placement with a child's relative. Allows a child's relatives or foster parents to attend all hearings and proceedings pertaining to the child.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 54*
Provides for a judicial waiver of the requirement that foster or adoptive parents be notified of the availability of a child's siblings.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 177*
Requires the court to review placements for children in need of services every six months and reduces the time period for disposition orders. Allows out-of-home placement only when a child or the child's family fails to meet a court order or when the treatment plan is unsuccessful.

Termination of Parental Rights

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 221, Sec. 5*
Allows for the termination of a putative father's parental rights if he fails to file a paternity action within 30 days of notice.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 811*
Changes the "reasonable efforts" definition to permit the state to terminate parental rights when return to the family home would jeopardize the minor's health, safety or welfare, and it appears that the return could not be accomplished within a reasonable period of time.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 909*
Permits termination of parental rights when the child is a victim of life endangering neglect or parental sexual exploitation.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 300*
Makes guardianship a placement option at any point in the dependency process or as a permanent placement upon termination of parental rights.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 10*
Divides juvenile matters in superior court into: (a) civil matters including neglect, families with service needs, termination of parental rights and emancipation; and (b) delinquency.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 238*
Allows termination of parental rights sooner than usual in cases involving young children when parental rights have been terminated for a sibling or a sibling has died under unexplained circumstances. Allows probate court to terminate parental rights under certain circumstances.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 316, Sec. 14-16*
Outlines circumstances under which the court may approve a child's posthumous adoption. Prohibits identifying an adopted person's genetic parents without their written consent when either was a party in proceedings to terminate parental rights.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 5*
Requires that indigent parents be appointed counsel when faced with criminal charges based on a dependency petition or with permanent loss of custody.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 502*
Creates a one-year limit on all termination proceedings, with exceptions for appeals and rehearings.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 267-1995*
Authorizes agencies to file for the termination of parental rights of all the children of parents convicted of sexual misconduct with their own child or stepchild under age 6.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Authorizes termination of parental rights when the parent has been convicted of child endangerment, is a chronic substance abuser, has committed a second or subsequent domestic abuse assault, has improperly removed the child from the person entitled to custody without consent or has otherwise improperly retained the child beyond the terms of a visit. Requires the court—while considering the termination of a parent's rights but before deciding—to determine if services would correct an abusive situation within a reasonable period of time and if the abuse and neglect constitutes a significant risk to the child's life.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 201*
Permits a minor's name change without consent of a noncustodial parent who has not been paying support nor has been in contact with the child for two years.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 481*
Reduces to six months the time period for parents failing to meaningfully communicate and maintain regular visitation with the child. Considers such failure in determining the termination.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chapters 608 and 609*
Adds to the grounds for termination of parental rights without consent, a conviction of a violent crime committed against the other natural parent and a 10-year sentence for that act.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 242*
Creates a presumption that conditions leading to out-of-home placement will not be corrected based on parental noncompliance with court orders.

MO *1995 Mo. Law, SB 460, Sec. 210.761*
Allows individuals who have provided foster care within two years to testify at placement hearings.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 369, Sec. 2*
Allows the court, when a child is conceived by rape, to terminate the parental rights upon conviction or adjudication for rape.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 458, Sec. 19*
Clarifies provisions related to the transfer of custody upon termination of parental rights.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 146*
Clarifies that the primary consideration in any termination of parental rights proceeding must be whether the best interests of the child will be served by the termination.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 218*
Creates a presumption that termination of parental rights is in the child's best interests when (1) the child has been in an out-of-home placement for most of one year and (2) the parents fail to comply with the family reunification plan.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 294, Sec. 8*
Establishes a presumption that the best interest of the child is in remaining with an adopting parent in an action brought by a biological parent to set aside termination of parental rights.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 309*
Incorporates provisions of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act into the state's termination of parental rights laws.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*
Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings or who is in violation of orders issued under child support, paternity, termination of parental rights, family offenses or child protection cases.

ND *1995 N.D. Laws, Chap. 155, Sec. 7*
Provides that termination of parental rights does not terminate a parent's duty to pay child support prior to the child's adoption.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 300*
Authorizes the department to establish a program for out-of-home treatment services for severely emotionally disturbed children. Provides that parents do not have to transfer legal custody for placement.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 767*
Expands factors to be considered in determining whether to terminate parental rights based on extreme conduct. Permits the court to establish permanent guardianship when circumstances do not warrant termination of all rights.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 143*
Allows termination of parental rights by one parent, if sufficient notice to all putative fathers has been given.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 472*
Allows, rather than requires, courts to order counties to pay for the costs of preparing the statement of facts for indigent parties in an appellate lawsuit affecting the parent-child relationship. Deletes the provision that made such liability applicable only to counties with a population of more than 2 million.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chapters 709 and 751, Sec.15, 65, 69*
Specifies when guardians ad litem and attorneys ad litem are to be appointed in termination of parental rights cases. Specifies that the burden of proof for involuntary termination of parental rights is clear and convincing evidence. Requires attorneys ad litem to be appointed in cases when it is deemed in the best interests of the child. Specifies the duties of the attorney ad litem. Adds to the grounds for termination the abandonment of a child in state custody for one year or more without contact or ability to provide a safe environment for the child. Prohibits voluntary relinquishment of parental rights within 48 hours after the birth of the child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 8*
Creates an adoptive parent registry for individuals willing to accept temporary foster care placement, without compensation, pending termination of parental rights. Requires the individual to sign a written statement agreeing to immediate removal of the child if warranted by the department. Provides that an individual who is registered has the right to be considered first for adoption if the child's parental rights have been terminated.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 270*
Sets time limits and administrative procedures for summons and notice of termination petitions.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311, Sec. 20*
Specifies a goal of six months to complete an adoption following termination.

FAMILY LAW

Custody and Visitation

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 584*
Allows grandparents to assert their legal rights to visitation of a grandchild whose deceased parent was their blood relative.

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 629*
Establishes a rebuttable presumption that it is not in a child's best interest to award sole or joint custody to a domestically abusive parent. Specifies factors for the courts to consider when awarding or modifying custody orders.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 30*
Requires the court to consider visitation rights for grandparents and others when it is in the best interest of the child. Allows grandparents to petition for visitation rights.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1200*
Grants visitation rights to grandparents of illegitimate children.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1283*
Requires that the cost of court-ordered home studies, reports, assessments, evaluations or marital studies not exceed fair market value.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1343*
Revises the definition of custody interference and increases the penalty.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 688*
Requires the Judicial Council to collect and analyze information regarding allegations of child abuse or neglect made during family law proceedings and to include the topic in family law training programs. Allows the court to impose monetary sanctions when false accusations of child abuse or neglect are made in child custody cases.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 28*
Requires petitioners for child custody or paternity establishment to disclose prior history of domestic abuse and restraining orders issued within 90 days of petitioning.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 206*
Raises the penalty for parental out-of-state kidnapping of a child under 16 to a Class D felony. Requires all parties to a custody action to give their Social Security numbers at the start of proceedings.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 316, Sec. 9*
Extends the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act to probate court proceedings.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 5*
Establishes a task force to study and report on child custody.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 146*
Allows the court in certain circumstances to grant custody or primary placement of a child with the stepparent in the event the custodial parent dies or becomes disabled.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 399, Sec. 6, Subsect. 3(A),(B),(C)*
Requires the court to consider the safety and well-being of the child and of the parent who is the victim of family violence before granting custody and visitation rights.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 128*
Gives grandparents the same standing as parents for evaluating custody arrangements in the child's best interest, when the grandchild is actually living with a grandparent in a stable environment.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Creates a rebuttable presumption against rewarding joint custody, when a history of domestic abuse exists. Precludes a court from ordering mediation in establishing or amending child visitation or child custody order when a history of domestic abuse exists.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 183*
Requires divorcing parents to receive counseling and attend conflict mediation prior to determining child custody and granting a divorce decree.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 268*
Authorizes the court to overrule child placement if it is in the child's best interest. Requires annual reviews of temporary child custody arrangements with relatives.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 57*
Allows stepparents' or stepgrandparents' visitation rights under certain circumstances if it is in the child's best interest.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 235*
Creates guidelines for conferring and terminating provisional custody by mandate and includes natural tutor with lawful custody of illegitimate children. Suggests draft for a statutory form.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 287*
Establishes a mediator's qualifications in child custody disputes and sets a limit on fees.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 463*
Requires that physical custody of the children be shared equally when feasible and if it is in the children's best interest.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 766*
Establishes criteria for setting up custody mediation seminars or counseling and requires parties to a custody and visitation proceeding to attend. Instructs those involved to maintain confidentiality.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 888*
Creates a presumption that no parent with a history of family violence can be awarded custody. Requires clear evidence that a parent has sexually abused the child in order to prohibit visitation.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1204*
Establishes court procedures for granting and regulating ex parte orders of temporary custody.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 14*
Continues to allow grandparents to petition for visitation rights in additional categories of situations in which both parents are still alive. Repeals "sunset" provisions on these categories of cases.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 172*
Allows the court to impose one or more of three specified sanctions to correct parental violations of visitation orders.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 290*
Establishes that grandparents have the right to visit a child who is undergoing adoption proceedings until the adoption is finalized. Allows grandparents access to the child if allowed by the adoptive parents.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 405*
Requires the court to consider domestic violence in making custody decisions. Grants the court the option of appointing a guardian ad litem in custody cases. Revises the factors a court must consider in determining parental rights and responsibilities. Gives priority to the safety and well-being of the child in decisions about primary residence. Allows children to personally address the court in hearings concerning parental rights and responsibilities when domestic abuse is involved.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 12*
Requires, rather than allows, the court to consider evidence of abuse against the other parent, spouse or child in making custody or visitation decisions. Requires the court to make arrangements to protect the victim and child.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 227*
Increases a child victim's age from 12 to 16 years in parental child abduction cases.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 232*
Allows the court to require either parent to give notice to the court before relocating the permanent residence of the parent of the child.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 358*
Determines where grandparents may file petitions for visitation.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1*
Sec. 20—Permits additional visitation for the noncustodial parent to provide child care while the custodial parent is working.

Sec. 21—Adds unwarranted denial of or interference with, a visitation schedule as reason for the court to modify a custody order.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 257, Art. 1, Sec. 33 and Art. 5, Sec. 1*
Requests the supreme court to conduct a study on the relationship between visitation and payment of child support and to make recommendations. Gives administrative law judges authority to exercise the powers of district court judges to obtain and enforce child and medical support, parentage and maintenance obligations. Authorizes judges to approve parentage orders with uncontested custody and visitation provisions.

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 583*
Prohibits a noncustodial parent to take the child out of state after a court order has been issued.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, Sec. 400, 452.375, 455.050*
Prohibits awarding custody or visitation to a parent who has been found guilty or committed a felony sex offense against the child. Allows the court to appoint a guardian ad litem.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, HB 232 and 485, Sec. 21.770*
Requires a legislative interim study on child visitation and support.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 394*
Allows appointing a nonattorney as guardian ad litem (GAL) in child support, custody and visitation matters. Establishes the GAL's responsibilities.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 712, Sec. 18*
Requires the court to consider a deceased parent's wishes in determining custody or guardianship in cases of out-of-wedlock births.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 50*
Makes stalking a criminal offense with penalties when custody proceedings are under way.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 196*
Establishes that there is a rebuttable presumption in the best interest of the child in divorce cases to deny custody to people with any history of physical or sexual abuse toward the child or others. Includes conception of the child by sexual assault.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 309*
Incorporates provisions of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act into the state's custody laws.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 610*
Requires a noncustodial parent to post bond when a risk exists from that parent of the child's possible abduction to a foreign country. Requires that custody terms from the Hague Convention be included in the order.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 389*
Requires verification of the custody and support status of a child after a divorce is final, including any prior court orders.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 483*
Allows the court to order visitation to people other than parents.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*
Sets conditions for issuing certain orders requiring conditions of behavior in child custody proceedings.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 415*
Modifies aspects of law governing shared parenting orders, by permitting the courts more authority to modify shared parenting plans; altering defined terms; and requiring certain provisions governing custody of the child during holidays and other days of special significance.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 219*
Makes it a civil offense to interfere with custody or visitation orders of a child under age 18 or to aid a transgressor. Specifies penalties.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 792*
Prohibits pre- and post-decree ex parte custody and visitation orders, with exceptions. Defines terms for and creates, temporary status quo and protective restraint orders.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 85*
Provides for supervised visitation or denial of custodial access in domestic violence situations.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 28*
Makes it a felony for noncustodial parents to take a child under 16 out of state for more than 72 hours against court orders. Makes it a misdemeanor for violators who return the child to the court's jurisdiction within seven days of the child's removal. Sets penalties in either case.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 105*
Allows court-mandated and consensual mediation in family courts.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 20*
Recodifies portions of the family code related to parents and children and lawsuits affecting the parent-child relationship.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 602*
Allows the court to order a change in a conservator's visitation access for a conviction or deferred adjudication for sexual assault against a child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 776*
Authorizes law enforcement officers to take custody of a missing child during an investigation of a criminal child custody case.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 59, Sec. 10*
Requires a court hearing within 30 days of filing a motion to enforce parent-child contact.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 38*
Grants privileges to grandparents and stepparents to petition for custody and visitation if one or both parents of a minor are deceased.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 41*
Allows paternal grandparent visitation rights of children whose paternity has been established.

Domestic Abuse and Miscellaneous

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1291*
Changes the definition of wife abuse to assault on a family or household member.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1269*
Prohibits the dismissal of family law actions when there is an outstanding order for child or spousal support or a dissolution action has been bifurcated.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 1*
Changes the language defining domestic abuse to cover "any person" being victimized.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 316, Sec. 9*
Clarifies the rights of a child born out of wedlock to inherit through the child's genetic parents.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 27*
Creates a task force on family safety to examine: (1) the child welfare system and (2) issues of coordination between child protection, domestic violence agencies and law enforcement.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 214*
Provides for protective treatment by a court of money or property awarded to a minor. Creates a special needs trust.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-631*
Prevents a parent from inheriting a child's estate if the parent neglected or failed to support the child.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 268*
Authorizes the mother to represent an unemancipated minor under conditions of the laws on the voluntary management of another's affairs.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act. 274*
Adds great-grandchildren to those who are eligible as beneficiaries in a class trust.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 469*
Expands the definition of family or household member to include minor children for the purpose of protection orders. Requires the court to recognize protection orders issued in other states.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174*
Sec. 455.060, 504, 505, 516—Allows the court to issue a protective order when a child is being stalked. Allows child protection orders to be extended.

Sec. 455.508, 513—Requires a guardian ad litem (GAL) or court appointed special advocate (CASA) when an ex parte child order of protection is issued.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 347, Sec. 487.010, 020, 040, 140, 150, 170*
Allows judges in a multi-county circuit to establish a family court in a county of that circuit.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 201*
Requires the court to inform parents about educational programs on the effects of divorce on children. Authorizes court-ordered participation.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 222*
Recodifies guardianship procedures, including allowing anyone to petition for appointing a guardian and listing people entitled to notice of the petition and the hearing. Recodifies procedures for ex parte and temporary orders. Recodifies procedures for the hearing and guardianship, including physical and safety needs of the minor. Lists guardian rights and provides for termination of a guardian.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 349*
Outlines the elements of protection orders issued in divorce actions and includes such cases in the statewide order of protection and warrant registry.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 441*
Allows court jurisdiction over a person who is not a resident in certain proceedings including family offenses.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 483*
Expands the scope of protection orders to safeguard adults from their children and clarifies other provisions.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 538*
Sets conditions to be met before an order requiring certain behavior can be issued in family offense proceedings.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 25*[illegible]
Places a guardian or custodian of a child patient with durable power of attorney in the priority list of who may give informed consent for health care or incapacitation.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 457*
Allows a probate court to appoint an investigator to investigate the need for a guardian for a minor in estate cases. Permits the court to order the applicant or estate to pay for costs of the investigation.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 766*
Creates a procedure to issue an emergency protective order for children in danger of being abused.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 800*
Provides for education, information and referral services as part of local family-centered service systems. Requires the state to develop a public information program for families in conflict. Requires information on child support, visitation guidelines and conflict resolution to be included and distributed at certain locations.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 85*
Expands the definition of domestic abuse to include endangered children. Establishes a registry of protection orders and requires local police to adopt a written policy on domestic violence, to file reports and to provide information to victims. Makes additional changes that include areas of family law, victim notification and civil relief.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 105*
Allows court-mandated and consensual mediation in family courts.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 20*
Removes elements of the Family Code pertaining to parents and children and suits affecting the parent-child relationship from Title 2 and places those sections into a new Title 5, "The Parent-Child Relationship and the Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship."

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 507*
Requires the district and county court judges to complete training on child abuse, sexual assault and family violence if the judge hears such cases. Requires the training to be completed during the first term or before the beginning of another term.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 559*
Requires the department to instruct case investigators to document episodes of domestic violence, including elder, spouse and child abuse. Requires that written information on community treatment services be distributed to victims.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 1043*
Outlines a procedure to transfer property to minors from estates or gifts via a custodian.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 122*
Allows emancipated minors to obtain a driver's learning permit or provisional license without a responsible adult's signature.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 131*
Legalizes public breast-feeding.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 59, Sec. 1-3, 13*
Assigns administrative and assistant judges to the family court.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 225*
Requires that a prospective guardian of a minor's estate take an oath to perform duties and give bond equal to the value of the estate.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 297*
Clarifies administrative procedures for the appointment of a guardian or limited guardian. Revokes any powers of attorney upon appointment of a guardian or limited guardian, with certain exceptions. Includes death of the incapacitated person as a reason for the guardian to petition the court to settle the account, and allows the court to appoint a GAL to review the petition.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 108*
Prohibits a court from terminating a trust for a minor unless it finds an adequate alternative.

GENERAL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Administration/Coordination/Policy

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1203*
Establishes the Common Ground Program to prevent high risk behaviors and create a more responsive environment for children and families. Directs collaboration among government agencies, private entities and citizens.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1309*
Commissions a feasibility study on using identification numbers for everyone seeking services provided by various departments.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1038*
Expands multidisciplinary service team record sharing policies statewide. Establishes a data base for these purposes.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 242*
Establishes an independent child advocate office with broad responsibilities ranging from evaluating multiple state services to reviewing complaints to representing children. Grants access to records.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 23, 24*
Creates a task force on healthy families. Extends the reporting deadline for the task force on minority males.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 255*
Creates the Georgia Policy Council for Children and Families to coordinate the delivery of public and private agency services. Authorizes community partnerships to plan delivery of such services.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 478-1995, Sec. 1*
Allows a county to appeal for an increase in the maximum family and child property tax levy to maintain fiscal obligations for children's services.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 945*
Requires state agencies serving children and families to coordinate services.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1232*
Creates the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board and makes composition changes.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 84*
Directs the Children's Cabinet to study and evaluate centralized coordination of children and family services. Requires a report to the legislature.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 179*
Expands the finance authority of the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority to include services such as mental health, substance abuse and family counseling.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 193*
Expands the composition of the subcabinet for Children, Youth and Families to include additional state agency representatives designated by the governor. Allows the subcabinet to choose any department or agency as its fiscal agent and changes "local planning entity" to "local management board."

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 97, Sec. 210.861*
Designates board members of the St. Louis Community Children's Fund as members of the community mental health board of trustees.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 210.865*
Requires the departments of social services, health, mental health and courts to coordinate their information systems to track individual children.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 460, Sec. 210.101*
Adds a representative from the state labor agency to the children's services commission.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 25*
Adds the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 414*
Creates a permanent legislative Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families to monitor interagency service coordination, recommend and track legislative recommendations and examine programs, including state and national welfare reforms.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 15, 17*
Authorizes a demonstration project to establish local administration and coordination at human services programs. Requires a report and evaluation.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 721*
Requires the state to create family resource centers in at-risk neighborhoods to provide or refer people to several types of services including social services, mental health, child care and educational programs.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., File 73*
Urges two state departments to participate in the national "Kids Count" initiative to track indicators of child well-being.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 231*
Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 502*
Requires the Children's Services Coordinating Committee to report to the legislature on the status of children and families. Allows the committee to designate organizations to serve as regional and tribal children's services coordinating committees.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 137, Sec. 1*
Adds a representative of the state Health Care Authority to the membership of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Special Services to Children and Youth.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 800*
Provides for education, information and referral services as part of local family-centered service systems. Requires the state to develop a public information program for families in conflict. Requires information on child support, visitation guidelines and conflict resolution to be included and distributed at certain locations.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 78*
Enacts the Human Services Development Fund to give counties flexibility in providing social services to populations that include dependent and delinquent children.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 142*
Expands required qualifications for the children, youth and families director to include candidates with master's degrees in fields related to social work.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.01, 9.06-9.10*
Establishes mechanisms to improve agency coordination and to integrate and streamline services.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 943, Sec. 6*
Prohibits counties without a child abuse prevention and protection plan from receiving funds for child and family services. Allows the state department to spend funds in counties without a plan. Requires the plan to provide information concerning local child abuse prevention and investigation efforts.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 144*
Creates a broad-based task force to recommend a comprehensive policy for children and families who need services due to poverty, dependency, disability, abuse or neglect. Requires recommendations on interagency communication, collaboration, reallocation of funds and changing the budget process.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311*
Sets administrative procedures for releasing health, disciplinary, behavioral and special educational records of new students to school districts.

Family Support

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 961*
Outlines a county-based planning process for implementation of the 1993 Family Preservation and Support Act including service definitions, financing mechanisms for planning and services and legislative intent to support a coordinated, seamless service system including both family preservation and support services.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1239*
Authorizes planning grants for Healthy Start services. Changes certain administrative and financing components.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 268*
Transfers responsibility for the Neighborhood Assistance Program to the Department of Revenue in order to make changes in tax credits and investments as they relate to job training, education, crime prevention and low to moderate income housing. Changes deadlines and places limits on tax credit claims.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts. Chap. 205, Sec. 1*
Appropriates funds for the Family Investment Program (FIP) and makes other changes in FIP including consolidation to ensure program coordination. Requires that research be conducted to establish "second chance homes" for young mothers and children.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 179*
Expands the finance authority of the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority to include services such as mental health, substance abuse and family counseling.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110—Requires teen parents not residing with a parent, to live in structured residential settings while receiving AFDC. Requires recipients to participate in parenting and pregnancy prevention classes. Provides counseling.

Sec. 126—Requires a plan to expand the comprehensive school-age parenting program statewide and a school-to-work plan for school-age youth.

Sec. 138—Requires a feasibility study on the cost effectiveness of expanding the Parents Fair Share Pilot program. Expands the program to provide job training and placement and parental responsibility training to young men who are, or soon to be, parents. Requires a report to two joint legislative committees.

MS *1995 Miss. Laws, Chap. 609*
Establishes a Support Our Students (SOS) grant program for community- and neighborhood-based entities to provide quality after-school activities for school-aged children. Specifies the goal of reducing juvenile crime. Outlines the application process. Requires local needs assessments and three-year plans to include anticipated outcomes and goals. Prioritizes low-income, high-risk students. Requires an evaluation and interagency cooperation.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 32.115, 135.460, 620.1100, 620.1103*
Creates a youth opportunities and violence prevention fund and gives tax credits for individuals and corporations that contribute to certain programs including dropout prevention and drug and alcohol prevention.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 701*
Appropriates funds to the Churchill County School District for the expansion of an AmeriCorps child care program to include child care and instructional classes for young mothers under age 17.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 721*
Requires the state to create family resource centers in at-risk neighborhoods to provide or refer people to services including social services, mental health, child care and educational programs.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 324, Sec. 27A*
Requires legislative oversight of Smart Start by the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, including selection of an independent performance audit of the program's first two years. Expands the role of the state partnership to provide technical assistance, assess outcome goals, help establish policies and outcome measures, obtain nonstate resources and verify local partnership contributions.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 11*
Requires AFDC recipients to attend parent education programs or to enlist their child in Head Start, early childhood education or Parents as Teachers, with exceptions.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 636, Sec. 4*
Establishes the Prekindergarten Program Trust Fund to assist eligible children with comprehensive services including educational, social, health and nutritional development to enhance school and life success. Authorizes spending the trust fund for prekindergarten and parents-as-teachers programs only.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 800*
Provides for education, information and referral services as part of local family-centered service systems. Requires the state to develop public information program services for families in conflict. Requires that information on child support, visitation guidelines and conflict resolution be included and distributed at certain locations including courthouses, agencies and others.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 9*
Requires the state to improve child health access, establish teen parent-school dropout initiatives and parent effectiveness training programs for AFDC families.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 483*
Requires interagency cooperation to establish "parents as first teachers" pilot programs. Caps annual expenditures.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 538*
Appropriates renewable grants to local education agencies for the planning, implementation and operation of family resource centers. Requires a 50 percent increase in grants to centers. Allows operation by local education agencies or a contract with a community-based, nonprofit agency.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.05*
Adds specific mandated services as part of the parenting skills training program.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Administration/Organization

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 899*
Creates the Intergovernmental Juvenile Detention Council to operate the 10th Judicial District detention facility.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1113*
Establishes therapeutic group homes and independent living programs for families-in-need-of-services and for delinquent youth.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1198*
Sec. 100—Requires the department to include certain requirements in contracts with community providers who provide community transition homes for juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a felony.

Sec. 101-102—Requires specific conditions for contracting with or paying for community-based residential programs to house certain adjudicated delinquents or those convicted of certain acts. Requires promulgation of certain regulations before contracting with community-based residential programs for youth who commit a felony and sex offenders.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1222*
Directs the Division of Youth Services and the Division of Family Services to issue reports on the performance of the child welfare system. Provides for performance audits of both divisions.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1261*
Establishes a statutory framework to govern the operation of the Division of Youth Services to administer juvenile justice programs and other services.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1340*
Excludes certain state-operated facilities from the definition of child care facilities. Mandates that juvenile facilities are subject to program requirements consistent with national standards for correctional facilities.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 358*
Expands the authority of local juvenile justice commissions to include the inspection of any group home in that county or region. Requires 24-hour notice of a visit. Requires additional reporting of dangers and violations.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 454*
Establishes the California Task Force to Review Juvenile Crime and the Juvenile Justice Response to analyze juvenile law and make appropriate suggestions regarding reform.

CA *1995 Cal. Stats., Chap. 969*
Authorizes the Judicial Council to establish the Pilot Family Assessment Intervention and Resource (FAIR) Act. Authorizes a probation officer or social worker to refer juveniles to a FAIR center if they are within or will be within juvenile court jurisdiction.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 36-37, 44-46, 49-50*
Requires the office of alternative sanctions to oversee and evaluate alternative sanctions for juvenile offenders and creates an advisory committee. Transfers administrative authority for juvenile justice centers and certain juvenile and child welfare personnel to different departments. Creates a legislative task force to study criminal justice operational issues including the role of prosecutors and public defenders in the juvenile justice system.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 242*
Establishes an independent child advocate office with broad responsibilities ranging from evaluating multiple state services to reviewing complaints to representing children. Grants access to records.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 25*
Establishes a task force to examine the results of an earlier study on gangs.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 161*
Adds the Secretary of Juvenile Justice to the following boards: Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.); the Violent Crime Council; the Criminal Justice Information Systems Council; and the Criminal Justice Executive Institute.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 276*
Authorizes the department to function as a special school district for incarcerated school-age youth and to receive federal funds.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 376, Sec. 15-11-4.1, 15-11-5.1*
Establishes training seminars for juvenile court judges and requires their participation. Requires the department to house children 13-17 years and convicted as adults in separate, designated youth confinement units.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44*
Establishes the Department of Juvenile Corrections to provide a balanced approach in the juvenile corrections system and to expand the counties' roles in providing juvenile probation services.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 161-1995*
Requires the Children and Family Division to license a facility as a private secure facility if it meets certain requirements and provides certain services.

IN *1995 Ind. Laws, P.L. 271-1995*
Authorizes the juvenile court to establish juvenile detention and shelter care facilities for children in LaPorte County.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 207, Sec. 1, 7*
Requires the attorney general to establish a juvenile unit. Appropriates funds to add four juvenile court officers to the state justice department.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191, Sec. 57*
Establishes a task force to develop a plan for shared jurisdiction between the juvenile justice system and the adult justice system. Sets membership and requires a report to the governor and general assembly.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 101*
Expands the jurisdiction of citizen review boards to include juvenile offenders.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 259*
Creates two separate authorities: one to develop disposition policies and another to operate juvenile corrections. Specifies authority composition, transfers legal authority from the current state agency responsible for juvenile corrections and requires a report.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1261*
Prohibits public viewing of juvenile court proceedings. Allows open hearings when the alleged act committed by the child is considered a crime of violence.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 112*
Allocates state responsibility for physically restrictive juvenile detention when the Northern Maine Regional Juvenile Detention Facility begins operation.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3, Sec. 55-57, 61*
Authorizes a youth placement research study and establishes a task force to examine services in residential facilities. Requires a plan to track juvenile reoffense rates.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 37.510—Requires a study on creating a uniform personnel system for the juvenile courts, reimbursement rates for detention and regionalization of detention centers.

Sec. 210.865—Requires the departments of social services, health, mental health and courts to coordinate their information systems to track individual children.

Sec. 211.326—Requires the state to evaluate juvenile court services and to develop (1) training standards for court personnel; (2) an assessment form to classify juvenile offenders; and (3) guidelines for judges to use to determine length of detention. Directs the state to consider racial disparities in completing these tasks.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 436*
Creates a Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Mental Health study commission and requires a legislative report with recommendations.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 546*
Transfers the Juvenile Corrections Program to the Department of Corrections.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 120, Sec. 4*
Changes the name of the state industrial school to Youth Correctional Center.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 252*
Reauthorizes the Interdisciplinary Council on the Prevention of Juvenile Sex Offenses and specifies duties.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422, Sec. 1b, 75 and 128*
Creates the Department of Youth Authority (DYA) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and transfers responsibilities relating to delinquent children from the Children's Services Division to DYA. Establishes different levels of custody with the OYA, including five regional secure facilities. Directs OYA to conduct intake assessments and to prepare a reformation plan. Directs county commissioners to convene a local public safety council charged with developing a juvenile justice plan for the state, coordinating policy and developing a delinquency plan in consultation with the local commission on children and families. Requires OYA to decide on a definition of recidivism and to establish a recidivism reporting system for youth offenders.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 92*
Creates a juvenile sex offender authority to supervise and coordinate agency efforts and develop a comprehensive continuum of services for juvenile sex offenders.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 272*
Expands the number of Youth Parole Authority members.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 117*
Changes the "Boot Camp Incarceration" program's sunset date to Jan. 1, 1997.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 219*
Ends the juvenile facilities review panel July 1, 1996.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 160*
Delays implementation of mandatory separation of juvenile and adult prisoners for two years. Requires county officials to submit a compliance plan to the governor.

Disposition/Penalties/Offenses

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 494*
Authorizes payment to victims for sexual assault exams. Requires that crime victim costs and assessments be assessed in certain juvenile and youthful offender cases.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 18*
Prohibits minors from patronizing or being employed at adult entertainment businesses.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 34*
Increases the maximum amount of damages recoverable against the parent or guardian of an unemancipated minor who causes property damage.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 98*
Authorizes youth courts to provide for peer adjudication of minors who have allegedly violated state or municipal laws.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 779*
Authorizes the juvenile court to order a juvenile and his or her parents to perform up to 160 hours of community service or to attend parental responsibility training.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 798*
Allows juvenile courts to suspend a delinquent's driving privileges. Authorizes juvenile judges to create sentencing alternatives.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1003*
Limits provisions of diversion agreements to include nonjudicial probation and participation in court approved programs including Teen Court.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1261, Sec. 8, 10*
Provides a two-year indeterminate commitment, subject to a one-year extension, at the Division of Youth Services. Directs the division to consider placement recommendations made by the court and to establish guidelines for length of stay.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1335*
Allows a court to order a juvenile's parent or guardian to attend an available, court-ordered parental responsibility training program.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1256*
Authorizes a county to contract with the military department to develop, establish and operate boot camp programs.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 47*
Prohibits the court from imposing additional sanctions on youths sentenced to the regimented juvenile training program.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 79*
Authorizes the court to apply sanctions to the parents of delinquent youth including the performance of direct services to victims.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 6*
Requires the full juvenile parole board to grant parole to aggravated juvenile offenders. Requires offenders to pay victim assistance and law enforcement surcharges as a condition of probation.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 148*
Raises the parental liability maximum to $5,000 per delinquent act.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 152, Sec. 6 and Chap. 138, Sec. 3*
Authorizes restraining orders to be issued against juveniles for domestic violence.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 142, Sec. 5*
Adds certain sex crimes to the list of offenses that are ineligible for youthful offender status.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225*
Sec. 9, 22, 33—Defines delinquent act and adds crimes, including weapons offenses, to the category of serious juvenile offenses. Requires the court to consider certain issues, including aggravating and mitigating factors and victim impact, in determining a disposition. Authorizes the court to order a child to participate in community service or the child and his parents to make restitution. Prohibits serious juvenile offenders from being granted youthful offender status.

Sec. 14(a)(b), 15(c)—Extends the length of supervision for nonjudicial dispositions. Authorizes the court to hold parents in contempt for failure to appear.

Sec. 22-26—Removes the time limit on out-of-town placements for serious offenders. Establishes serious juvenile offender (SJRO) prosecutions. Applies both juvenile and adult sentencing laws based on the offense and allows for adult prosecution in certain circumstances. Prohibits SJRO's from being placed in an adult correctional facility before age 16.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 13*
Authorizes house arrest for adjudicated juveniles under certain requirements.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 164*
Requires the court to suspend a juvenile's driver's license for marking property with graffiti. Allows the court to substitute graffiti removal as a community service in lieu of driver's license suspension.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Acts 227 and 236*
Allows the court to order the minor, the parents or the guardians to pay the cost for repairing property damage caused by vandalism or graffiti. Allows each county to impose civil fines upon a person who places graffiti on certain property. Makes parents or guardians of minors liable.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44*
Sec. 6—Substitutes the word "juvenile" in place of "child" to be consistent with the creation of the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Sec. 22—Requires that a juvenile be charged, petitioned and adjudicated as a habitual status offender for the third status offense committed within 12 months.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44, Sec 4. and Chap. 277, Sec. 5*
Creates the Department of Juvenile Corrections and outlines its duties.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 45*
Increases the maximum detention time for juveniles who commit certain misdemeanors or felonies.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 50*
Imposes criminal penalties for intimidation and other such acts against witnesses during juvenile evidentiary hearings.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 51*
Creates felony penalties for committing assault or battery on juvenile corrections personnel or juvenile probation officers.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 74*
Creates criminal penalties for minors who escape from juvenile detention or other secure facilities.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 274*
Removes certain limitations to the amount of restitution paid by parents for economic losses caused by a juvenile's conduct.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191*
Sec. 9—Authorizes placing a juvenile adjudicated delinquent in a secure juvenile detention facility for a specified time. Allows use of any facility for detention of a minor for an alleged delinquent act, except a jail.

Sec. 50, 52-53—Changes the penalty for using or conspiring to use a juvenile in a crime from a Class D felony to a Class C felony. Adds felonies for recruiting, enticing or intimidating a juvenile into joining a criminal street gang.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 214, Sec. 2*
Deletes exclusion of repeat juvenile offenders from diversion programs. Prohibits diversion for certain DUI offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 259*
Creates a new youth authority to develop disposition policies for juvenile offenders.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 241*
Makes the statute related to carnal knowledge of a juvenile gender neutral.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 367*
Adds aggravated oral sexual battery and aggravated battery committed with a firearm to the list of offenses that subjects a juvenile age 15 or older to adult court jurisdiction.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 702*
Creates the offense of improper supervision of a minor by a parent or guardian. Includes acts such as associating with a gang, convicted felon, drug user or distributor, a person who possesses or has access to an illegal weapon or entering inappropriate premises, violating curfew or habitual truancy. Establishes penalties.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 794*
Requires a monthly supervision fee for placement of a child or his or her parent on supervised probation or parole.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1095, Sec. 3*
Requires a dispositional order to warn a child that violating a disposition judgment may result in placement in a juvenile shelter or detention facility.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1158*
Provides for the maximum duration of a juvenile disposition based upon a felony-level adjudication prior to transfer to adult corrections.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1266*
Requires a defendant convicted of certain sex offenses to provide community notice of each address change during probation.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1291*
Allows a defendant convicted of a sex crime to petition for relief of certain probation conditions.

MI *1994 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 355*
Applies sex offender registration to juveniles.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 2, Sec. 1*
Excludes unmarried minors from curfew, requires metropolitan areas to set a lower curfew time for younger children and increases the curfew age.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art 3*
Sec. 8, 12-13, 31, 48—Increases the penalties for violating the compulsory school attendance law. Authorizes denial of driving privileges for habitual truancy. Allows the court to order a parent to deliver a truant child to school. Makes it a gross misdemeanor for three or more people to trespass on school property.

Sec. 15, 34—Expands the definition of juvenile petty offense and authorizes the court to order restitution or outpatient treatment.

Sec. 29-30, 51—Requires the court approval of placements in secure facilities and delegates administrative authority over length of stay. Specifies placement criteria and mandates agency reviews.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 167.161, 171—Allows school districts to suspend students for felony arrests or convictions. Increases the length of school suspensions.

Sec. 211.073, 181, 231—Allows the court to invoke dual jurisdiction of both the criminal and juvenile codes for youth who are tried as adults. Allows for suspension of the adult criminal sentence upon completion of the juvenile disposition. Authorizes the court to set a minimum length of stay in a commitment order under certain circumstances.

Sec. 211.132, 134—Allows the court to order parents to participate in juvenile corrections programs and to pay institutional costs for their children.

Sec. 219.021—Allows the state to petition the court to maintain custody over a delinquent youth until the child's 21st birthday.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 345, Sec. 160.261*
Requires school districts to suspend any student who brings a firearm to school.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 442*
Makes a parent or guardian jointly and severally liable with a minor for damages caused by negligence or willful misconduct.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 453*
Requires that a person who commits a felony on school property or at a school-sponsored activity receive another prison term in addition to the term prescribed by statute. Prohibits a prisoner released on parole from associating with members of a criminal gang. Prohibits a prisoner released on parole from associating with members of a criminal gang.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 302*
Changes existing law to a gender neutral statute.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 398*
Establishes liability of parents or guardians for damages caused by children in their custody.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 536*
Authorizes a community service sentence to remove graffiti for any graffiti related offense.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 249*
Defines eligible assaultive and violent children and ensures that they are provided services.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 391*
Authorizes a law enforcement officer to take physical custody without court order of runaway juveniles aged 16 and 17.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 494*
Creates a new offense of indecent liberties between children.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 120, Sec. 19*
Allows the court to commit a delinquent or unruly child to a secure facility.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 124,*
Sec. 5, 15—Limits the imprisonment of juveniles prosecuted and convicted in adult court to custody within the department of corrections. Requires that juveniles who are accused of murder and other serious crimes be prosecuted in adult criminal court. Directs the court to consider certain factors in determining treatment options and sanctions for juveniles convicted in criminal court.

Sec. 7, 9-11, 14, 19—Authorizes the juvenile court to hold a parent who refuses to participate in his or her child's treatment in contempt of court. Allows the court to order parents to pay restitution for damages resulting from delinquent acts by their children. Authorizes the juvenile court to suspend a youth's driving privileges for nontraffic related offenses.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 299*
Expands the definition of "unruly child" to include youth under age 21 who commit alcohol-related offenses.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 314*
Permits a court to reject without a hearing, by journal entry, certain requests for the release of a child committed to the Department of Youth Services from institutional care or care in a secure facility.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 145*
Allows suspension of a child's driver's license for certain offenses.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 217*
Allows release to a responsible adult of a child under age 18 taken into custody for certain alleged violations.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 227*
Authorizes public schools to decline educational services in the regular school setting to a pupil who has been adjudicated delinquent or convicted as an adult of a violent offense.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422, Sec. 59-64*
Requires registration of juvenile sex offenders. Stops community notification of predatory offenders as long as the perpetrator remains under juvenile court supervision.

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OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 592*
Permits the juvenile court to require a parent or guardian and child to enter into a contract as a condition of the child's probation. Permits fines up to $1,000 for breach of contract.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 593*
Creates the offense of failure to supervise a child. Provides defenses. Permits court to order restitution and to order the defendant to complete a parent effectiveness program in lieu of the fine.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 75*
Requires HIV testing of sex offenders at the victim's request.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 83*
Permits a minor to be committed to a correctional institution for 90 days or less for certain misconduct or a probation violation. Allows a child aged 12-16 to be committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice for placement in a corrective environment. Prohibits a child under age 17 to be committed to another state penal or correctional institution.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 267*
Authorizes the corrections commissioner to decide in which adult facility a juvenile offender is to be housed.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 380*
Removes the cap on a minor's responsibility for delinquent activities when monetary restitution is required.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 262*
Adds 15 offenses for which a minor can receive a determinate sentence. Establishes that a minor who has received a determinate sentence must serve at least 10 years for capital murder, three years for a first-degree or aggravated controlled substance felony, two years for a second degree felony and one year for a third degree felony. Requires community service, not to exceed 500 hours, as a condition of a minor's probation unless good cause is shown. Allows parents to be ordered to perform community service with the child. Permits voluntary restitution or community service restitution to be included as part of a disposition under a first offender program. Allows local juvenile boards to adopt a progressive sanctions model to correspond with the seriousness of a minor's conduct and delinquent history.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 512*
Authorizes the court to suspend a juvenile's driver's license for failure to appear or to pay a fine for certain misdemeanor offenses.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 598*
Exempts a person who successfully completes a teen court program from payment of certain fees and court costs.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 748*
Authorizes the court to impose a fee on child defendants to cover the costs of participation in a teen court program.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 18*
Authorizes youth court to impose disposition alternatives in diversion cases including community service, restitution and counseling.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 330*
Reduces from 16 years to 14 years the age at which a child is eligible for post-dispositional confinement in a detention home or other secure facility.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 493*
Prohibits entrance without authorization upon school or church property including school bus at night for purposes other than to attend a meeting or service.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 748*
Clarifies the statute concerning detention of juveniles. Allows a judge to order the predispositional detention of a person 18 years or older in a juvenile facility only for violation of the terms and conditions of release from a learning center or in an adult facility.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 773*
Requires parental notification when a student is involved in a violent or criminal act while at school. Requires the student to participate in appropriate prevention and intervention activities as defined in the school division's drug and violence prevention plan. Requires local law enforcement agencies to be notified of any criminal acts committed.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 56*
Raises the parental liability restitution limit to $5,000 and requires parents to pay the remaining restitution if their unemancipated minor fails to do so.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 22*
Authorizes the court to impose supervised work or community service for committing a violent crime within a school zone.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 24*
Defines graffiti as a crime, makes parents liable for damages and authorizes community service to be imposed on the delinquent offender.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 160*
Delays implementation of mandatory separation of juvenile and adult prisoners for two years. Requires county officials to submit a compliance plan to the governor.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 186*
Prohibits giving tattoos to minors. Provides for a parental consent exception.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 202*
Creates failure to exercise reasonable parental control and authority as an offense requiring parents to post a bond until their child's probation or restitution requirements are fulfilled. Permits the juvenile court to order parental participation in their child's treatment plan or supervision.

Financing

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 585*
Requires school districts to include amounts paid to certain service providers in meeting the requirement that 70 percent of the district's net current revenue be paid to certified personnel.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 667*
Requires a school district to remit special education funds to juvenile detention facilities for youth held under order of the juvenile court.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1198, Sec. 104*
Establishes the department Renovation Fund, which includes general revenues from the Division of Youth Services to construct, repair and renovate DHA facilities.

CA *1995 Cal. Stats., Chap. 882*
Holds a parent or other person liable for support of the minor for institutional costs.

ID	*1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44, Sec. 25* Allows a court to order a parent or guardian to pay costs to cover support and treatment of a juvenile.
ID	*1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 354* Authorizes the court to order parents, foster parents or other legal guardians to pay costs toward detention. Requires the Department of Health and Welfare to apply detention costs for housing a juvenile in a detention facility.
IN	*1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 270-1995* Requires parents' reimbursement for juvenile services except under certain circumstances.
IA	*1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 12* Continues planning groups in judicial districts to review expenditures for court-ordered services to juveniles. Prohibits the courts from ordering any state-paid services if there are insufficient funds or from ordering the county to pay for such services.
KS	*1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 214, Sec. 1* Outlines reimbursement under interlocal agreements for the care of juvenile offenders.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 794* Requires a monthly supervision fee for placement of a child or his or her parent on supervised probation or parole.
ME	*1995 Me. P & S 50* Directs the Department of Education to provide funds for the Building Alternatives Program to provide skills training to juveniles at the Maine Youth Center.
MO	*1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 211.132, 134* Allows the court to order parents to participate in juvenile corrections programs and to pay institutional costs for their children.
NE	*1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 524/L.B. 524A* Allows assignment of child, spousal or medical support to the state during the time a child is a ward of the state. Entitles the custodial parent to receive child, spousal or medical support during the time when the child is not a ward of the state. Appropriates funds to carry out the act.
NH	*1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 220* Requires those responsible and chargeable for a state or county ward's support to pay directly to the state or county for the minor's support.
NY	*1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 231* Creates a block grant program for children and family services, that includes preventive, protective, adoption, juvenile justice and foster care services. Authorizes the state to establish managed care systems with capitated rates to provide block grant services. Requires performance outcomes such as reducing the length of foster care placements or reducing abuse. Grants priority status for interagency collaboration. Outlines block grant provisions for family and children services, including foster care and adjudicated juvenile delinquents.
NY	*1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 652* Requires that the noncustodial parent of a person in need of supervision (PINS) be notified that he or she may be subject to child support proceedings.
ND	*1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 302* Requires the attorney general to pay witness fees and mileage for witnesses in juvenile court proceedings.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422, Sec. 1b, 75, 128*
Creates the Department of Youth Authority (DYA) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and transfers responsibilities relating to delinquent children from the Children's Services Division to DYA. Establishes different levels of custody with the OYA, including five regional secure facilities. Directs OYA to conduct intake assessments and to prepare a reformation plan. Directs county commissioners to convene a local public safety council charged with developing a juvenile justice plan for the state, coordinating policy and developing a delinquency plan in consultation with the local commission on children and families. Requires OYA to decide on a definition of recidivism and establish a recidivism reporting system for youth offenders. Budgets $186.4 million for the Oregon Youth Authority's *1995-97* operations and construction.

PA *1994 Pa. Laws, Act 78*
Enacts the Human Services Development Fund to give counties flexibility in providing social services to populations that include dependent and delinquent children.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 96*
Requires the juvenile court to determine the parents' financial ability to pay for counsel when considering indigence and to order the parents to reimburse the indigent defense fund if counsel is appointed for the youth.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 140*
Appropriates money for the planning, design, construction, renovation and improvement of certain corrections facilities.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 748*
Authorizes the court to impose a fee on child defendants to cover the costs of participation in a teen court program.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 154*
Extends and funds the juvenile sex offender and victim treatment pilot program for one year.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 272*
Appropriates money to the gang prevention and intervention program in the public schools.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 448*
Enables the court to order parents to pay for the costs of support and treatment for a juvenile in temporary shelter care regardless of the status of legal custody.

Institutions/Services/Prevention

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 158*
Requires counties to operate education programs for inmates under 18 and for disabled inmates under 21. Permits school superintendents to establish county jail education funds when a county chooses not to comply. Establishes the funding formula for such programs. Sets membership and duties for joint legislative committee on school safety.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 533, Sec. 2-3*
Increases an intake officer's duties to include investigation of complaints and charges that a juvenile is delinquent or dependent-neglected or that a family is in need of services. Adds the department or the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) as a party who can petition for paternity establishment . Specifies a range of program options and services to be administered by the newly created Division of Youth Services.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 712*
Creates the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program to provide grants to local community partnerships for programs that enhance educational attainment for students who are at risk of school failure or delinquency.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1198, Sec. 100*
Requires the department to include certain requirements in contracts with providers of community transition homes for juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a felony.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1203*
Establishes the Common Ground Program to prevent high risk behaviors. Directs collaboration among government agencies, private entities and citizens.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1204*
Provides for fee collection on services charged to juveniles.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1261, Sec. 3*
Specifies a range of program options and services to be administered by the newly created Division of Youth Services.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1340*
Excludes certain state-operated facilities from the definition of child care facilities. Mandates that juvenile facilities shall be subject to program requirements consistent with national standards for correctional facilities.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1256*
Authorizes a county to contract with the military department to develop, establish and operate boot camps programs.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225*
Sec. 1-8, 18—Requires: (a) program coordination; (b) treatment programs based on individual and family assessment and case management; (c) risk assessment; (d) the development of a purchase-of-care system to comprise a continuum of community-based care; (e) a comprehensive report on reorganizing the juvenile justice system; and (f) a presentence investigation.

Sec. 17, 22—Authorizes drug and alcohol testing as a condition of release from detention or probation.

Sec. 22 [(e)] (i)—Removes the time limit on out-of-town placements for serious offenders.

Sec. 25 (f), 31, 43—Prohibits serious juvenile repeat offenders from being placed in an adult correctional facility before age 16. Authorizes the adult court to refer 16- or 17-year-olds to a youth service bureau as a condition of probation.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 268*
Transfers responsibility for the Neighborhood Assistance Program to the Department of Revenue in order to make changes in tax credits and investments as they relate to job training, education, crime prevention and low to moderate income housing. Changes deadlines and places limits on tax credit claims.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 13*
Authorizes house arrest for adjudicated juveniles under certain requirements.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 212, Sec. 1, 2*
Authorizes moderate-risk residential facilities to be hardware-secure or staff-secure. Allows staff at such facilities to seclude a child who is a physical threat to himself or others and to use mechanical restraints when necessary. Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to notify the court when transferring a youth to another facility or program.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 30-42*
Requires employment screening for personnel in programs for children and youth.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44, Sec. 35*
Eliminates the setting of conditional release guidelines for a juvenile in a secure facility during his or her 90-day review after commitment.

IN *1995 Ind. Laws, P.L. 161-1995*
Requires the Children and Family Division to license a facility as a private secure facility if it meets certain requirements and provides certain services.

IN *1995 Ind. Laws, P.L. 271-1995*
Authorizes the juvenile court to establish juvenile detention and shelter care facilities for children in LaPorte County.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 143, Sec. 8*
Establishes a youthful offender substance abuse program for those whose license is revoked for driving when intoxicated. Requires participants to pay costs of the program, based upon a sliding fee scale.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 9 and 10*
Appropriates funds for juvenile institutions and 50 highly structured program beds. Prohibits population levels at juvenile institutions from exceeding state guidelines. Requires institutions to apply for teenage pregnancy prevention grants.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 259*
Creates two separate authorities: one to develop disposition policies and another to operate juvenile corrections. Specifies authority composition, transfers legal authority from the current state agency responsible for juvenile corrections and requires a report.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 163*
Eliminates the requirement for constant one-on-one observation of juveniles in a secure setting who are in no immediate danger of harming themselves.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chaps. 112 and 155*
Clarifies state responsibility for physically restrictive juvenile detention when the Northern Maine Regional Juvenile Detention Facility begins operation. Allows juveniles to be detained in a juvenile section of a county jail until the facility becomes operational.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 473*
Authorizes a minor to consent to specified medical screening and exams after admission into a detention center.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3*
Sec. 1—Requires a report on the impact of laws and programs on school safety and violence prevention.

Sec. 4—Requires that an educational assessment be conducted on youth held in all residential facilities.

Sec. 16—Requires the court to offer educational programs for juveniles and their families.

Sec. 23—Allows a one-time extension to the eight-day limit on detention stays.

Sec. 25—Excludes certain minors from sight and sound separation rules applied to jails.

Sec. 27—Authorizes adult residential facilities to admit certain extended jurisdiction juveniles and directs facilities to develop policies for age separation.

Sec. 29-30, 51—Requires the court approval of placements in secure facilities and delegates administrative authority over length of stay. Specifies placement criteria and mandates agency reviews.

Sec. 33—Requires grants to counties to provide a continuum of care to youth who are at-risk or are classified as extended jurisdiction juveniles.

Sec. 37-43—Authorizes a continuum of programs, including school review boards and county attorney mediation programs, to combat truancy and specifies juvenile court involvement only when necessary.

Sec. 49—Establishes a task force to examine services in residential facilities.

Sec. 50, 52—Authorizes a pilot project to create a juvenile justice prevention and enforcement unit.

Sec. 54, 56—Requires corrections and human services departments to jointly develop rules for residential treatment facilities.

Sec. 58—Establishes a pilot project on early intervention for young children at risk of becoming sex offenders.

Sec. 59-60—Specifies that alleged petty offenders do not have a right to counsel at public expense and allows a juvenile to waive counsel in misdemeanor cases.

Sec. 62—Authorizes a multi-agency demonstration project to address the needs of young children whose behaviors indicate they are at high-risk for delinquency.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 4, Sec. 4*
Expands the community crime reduction program to include grants for homeless youth.

MS *1995 Miss. Laws, Chap. 609*
Establishes a Support Our Students (SOS) grant program for community-based entities to provide quality after-school activities for school-age children. Specifies the goal of reducing juvenile crime. Outlines the application process. Requires local needs assessments and requires local three-year plans to include anticipated outcomes and goals. Prioritizes low-income, high-risk students. Requires an evaluation and interagency cooperation.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 32.115, 135.460, 620.1100, .1103—Creates a youth opportunities and violence prevention fund and gives tax credits for individuals and corporations that contribute to certain programs including dropout prevention and drug and alcohol prevention.

Sec. 37.510—Requires a study on the regionalization of detention centers and reimbursement rates.

Sec. 167.126—Requires school districts to educate a child placed in that district by court order or by the mental health or social services department.

Sec. 170.046—Requires the state to establish program materials on nonviolent conflict resolution and ethical decision making to be offered in schools and to the public. Requires schools to notify students of all changes in juvenile law.

Sec. 211.326—Requires the state to evaluate juvenile court services and to develop (1) training standards for court personnel; (2) an assessment form to classify juvenile offenders; and (3) guidelines for judges to use to determine length of detention. Directs the state to consider racial disparities in completing these tasks.

Sec. 217.345, .598—Establishes a community work program for nonviolent juvenile offenders.

Sec. 219.021—Allows the state to petition the court to maintain custody over a delinquent youth until the child's 21st birthday.

Sec. 589.300, .310—Grants local government-school partnerships priority when applying for crime prevention funds.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 347, Sec. 487.010, 020, 040, 140, 150, 170*
Allows certain counties to establish juvenile boot camps.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 25*
Adds the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 739, Sec. 1*
Directs the state to consider imminent risk when working toward family preservation for delinquent youth.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 516*
Authorizes medical, dental and mental health services to inmates under age 18.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 314*
Permits a court to reject without a hearing, by journal entry, certain requests for the release of a child committed to the Department of Youth Services from institutional care or care in a secure facility.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 227*
Authorizes public schools to decline educational services in the regular school setting to a pupil who has been adjudicated delinquent or convicted as an adult of a violent offense.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 254*
Expands the involvement of the juvenile office in obtaining mental health treatment for children.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422*
Sec. 1b, 27-37, 131—Establishes different levels of custody with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), including five regional secure facilities. Establishes emergency procedures for youth corrections facilities. Directs OYA to submit legislation ensuring compliance with federal requirements as a condition of receiving federal funds for juvenile justice facilities.

Sec. 1b, 75, 128—Creates the Department of Youth Authority (DYA) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and transfers responsibilities relating to delinquent children from the Children's Services Division to DYA. Establishes different levels of custody with the OYA, including five regional secure facilities. Directs OYA to conduct intake assessments and to prepare a reformation plan. Directs county commissioners to convene a local public safety council charged with developing a juvenile justice plan for the state, coordinating policy, developing a delinquency plan in consultation with the local commission on children and families. Requires OYA to decide on a definition of recidivism and to establish a recidivism reporting system for youth offenders.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 83*
Allows a child aged 12-16 to be committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice for placement in a corrective environment. Prohibits a child under age 17 to be committed to another state penal or correctional institution. Requires that a child who is guilty of certain misconduct or violates a court order to be committed to a correctional institution for 90 days or less.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 267*
Authorizes the corrections commissioner to decide in which adult facility a juvenile offender is to be housed.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 354*
Requires juvenile offenders tried as adults and who are housed in an adult facility, separate from adult offenders, to follow the same regulations and policies regarding educational opportunities and imprisonment conditions.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 262*
Authorizes the Texas Youth Commission to create boot camps in conjunction with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and local juvenile boards and probation departments. States that a boot camp is an intermediate sanction.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 664*
Requires training including child abuse, on violence prevention for juvenile probation departments, boards and children in custody.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 129*
Appropriates money to the gang prevention and intervention program in the public schools.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 154*
Extends and funds the juvenile sex offender and victim treatment pilot program for one year. Expands agency participants.

VT *1995 Vt. Acts, Act 18*
Establishes a pilot youth court in Windsor County to handle cases referred from court diversion. Sets requirements for youth court officer certification of minors. Dismisses charges upon minor's successful completion of disposition contract.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 698*
Appropriates funds and creates a new program through the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act to aid localities in preventing juvenile delinquency.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 160*
Delays implementation of mandatory separation of juvenile and adult prisoners for two years. Requires county officials to submit a compliance plan to the governor.

Jurisdiction/Waivers

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 98*
Authorizes youth courts to provide for peer adjudication of minors who have allegedly violated state or municipal laws.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 797*
Prescribes the conditions under which a juvenile may qualify as a habitual offender and can be charged as an adult in circuit court.

CA *1995 Cal. Stats., Chap. 453*
Revises the list of offenses for which a minor may be presumed unfit to be tried in juvenile court. Establishes procedures to allow a juvenile age 14 or older to be tried as an adult.

CA *1995 Cal. Stats., Chap. 969*
Authorizes the Judicial Council to establish the Pilot Family Assessment Intervention and Resource (FAIR) Act. Authorizes a probation officer or social worker to refer juveniles to a FAIR center if they are within or will be within juvenile court jurisdiction.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138*
Sec. 7—Removes district court authority to order a juvenile court to hold a juvenile in custody when juvenile court jurisdiction has been waived.

Sec. 9—Grants concurrent jurisdiction over a youth under 18 charged with underage drinking and specifies exceptions.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225*
Sec. 10—Divides juvenile matters in superior court into civil matters and delinquency.

Sec. 13—Changes waiver proceedings for 14-year-olds. Requires automatic transfer for the most serious felony offenses and grants the court the option to transfer cases involving less serious felonies.

Sec. 22-26—Removes the time limit on out-of-town placements for serious offenders. Establishes serious juvenile offender (SJRO) prosecutions. Applies both juvenile and adult sentencing laws based on the offense and allows for adult prosecution in certain circumstances. Prohibits SJROs from being placed in an adult correctional facility before age 16.

Sec. 29-30—Allows referees who have been superior court judges to hear juvenile matters.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 261*
Transfers prosecution of juvenile offenders from Family Court jurisdiction to Superior Court jurisdiction.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 263*
Authorizes transfer of juvenile offenders to adult court if the juvenile has been declared nonamenable to rehabilitation, was previously prosecuted in adult court or is charged with another crime.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44*
Sec. 4, 9-10, 17—Allows a juvenile to be taken into custody without a court order and be held for adult criminal proceedings under certain circumstances. Allows a juvenile age 14 to 18 who commits certain crimes to be charged, arrested and tried as an adult.

Sec. 6, 8, 10—Gives the court jurisdiction over any juvenile and over any adult who has a juvenile at the time of any criminal act under certain circumstances. Requires a juvenile age 18 or older under court jurisdiction who is charged with a felony to be treated as an adult offender. Allows a juvenile aged 14 - 18 to be charged, arrested and tried as an adult for certain crimes.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 46*
Requires that a juvenile who has been charged with or pled guilty to certain crimes be tried as an adult.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 47*
Allows the waiver to adult court of a child under the age of 14 who is accused of committing a crime for which a child aged 14 - 18 must be tried as an adult.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 48*
Includes arson in the first degree and aggravated arson as crimes for which juveniles must be tried as adults.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 268-1995*
Gives juvenile court exclusive jurisdiction over children except in certain circumstances.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 269-1995*
Requires that a juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over a child who, at age 16 years or older, allegedly commits criminal conduct. Awards the department of correction wardship of the child under certain circumstances.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 180*
Allocates jurisdiction to the juvenile court in cases regarding a juvenile who commits domestic abuse. Allows the court to require a juvenile who commits such a crime to attend batterers' treatment programs.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191, Sec. 8, 12, 54*
Excludes juvenile court jurisdiction from a juvenile age 16 or older who commits a drug-related firearm or offensive weapon offense, a weapons offense that is punishable by a felony, certain gang activities or a forcible felony. Requires that a juvenile waived to adult court for an alleged felony to have other felony proceedings commence in district court. Allows transfer to the juvenile court if the district court finds inappropriate adult court waiver.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 367*
Adds aggravated oral sexual battery and aggravated battery with a firearm to the list of offenses with which a prosecutor can charge a juvenile as an adult.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 959*
Adds aggravated burglary to the list of offenses for which divestiture of juvenile court jurisdiction is allowed.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 969*
Authorizes the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to maintain jurisdiction over a juvenile until juvenile disposition expires.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3*
Sec. 17-19, 21, 28, 32—Specifies that a juvenile alleged to have committed first degree murder should not automatically be transferred to juvenile court. Specifies court jurisdiction and prosecutor responsibilities.

Sec. 20, 22—Prohibits filing a truancy petition in juvenile court without exhausting other procedures where there is a school attendance review board or mediation program.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 160, Sec. 211.071*
Lowers the age for juveniles to be tried as adults, requires a certification hearing for certain offenses, adds racial disparity to the criteria used to determine a juvenile waiver and allows the state to prosecute children as adults who have previously been certified for adult prosecution.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 211.073*
Allows the court to invoke dual jurisdiction of both the criminal and juvenile codes for youth who are tried as adults. Allows for suspension of the adult criminal sentence upon completion of the juvenile disposition.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 268, Sec. D, I-N*
Revises supreme court rules to be consistent with current legislation on transferring juveniles to criminal court to be tried as adults.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 444, Sec. 1, 5*
Requires that a person age 16 or older who commits a weapons offense and who has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult be tried in adult court. Requires that a child age 14 or older who is charged with a weapons offense may be certified as an adult unless the court finds that the child was not the principal actor in the offense or that certain circumstances exist.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 152*
Authorizes a family division within the judicial branch in pilot counties with broad jurisdiction over family matters.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 5*
Extends jurisdiction of the court over minors up to the age of 19 for offenses committed before their 18th birthdays.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 308*
Reduces the age of majority to 17 under the delinquency laws.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 124, Sec. 5, 15*
Requires that juveniles who are accused of murder and other serious crimes be prosecuted in adult criminal court. Directs the court to consider certain factors in determining treatment options and sanctions for juveniles convicted in criminal court. Limits the imprisonment of juveniles prosecuted and convicted in adult court to custody within the department of corrections.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 145*
Authorizes district courts to assume jurisdiction over cases that involve a child under age 18 who violates a municipal ordinance or fails to appear in court.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 422*
Sec. 1b, 75, 128—Creates the Department of Youth Authority (DYA) and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and transfers responsibilities relating to delinquent children from the Children's Services Division to DYA. Establishes different levels of custody with the OYA, including five regional secure facilities. Directs OYA to conduct intake assessments and to prepare a reformation plan. Directs county commissioners to convene a local public safety council charged with developing a juvenile justice plan for the state, coordinating policy, developing a delinquency plan in consultation with the local commission on children and families. Requires OYA to decide on a definition of recidivism and to establish a recidivism reporting system for youth offenders.

Sec. 47-49, 58—Applies voter-approved adult criminal sentence requirements to certain offenses committed by minors of a certain age. Mandates that a child 15 or older charged with aggravated murder must be prosecuted as an adult. Adds procedures for sentencing youthful offenders convicted of lesser offenses. Lowers the age from 14 to 12 at which a person can be held criminally responsible in adult court.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 133*
Adds first degree child molestation to mandatory charges for 17-year olds to be tried as adults.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 354*
Requires juvenile offenders tried as adults and who are housed in an adult facility, separate from adult offenders, to follow the same regulations and policies regarding educational opportunities and imprisonment conditions.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 379*
Permits juveniles under age 16 who have committed or attempted to commit certain offenses to be transferred from juvenile court for trial as adult.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 262*
Lowers the age to 14 to permit transfer of a juvenile into adult court for allegedly committing a capital felony, an aggravated controlled substance felony or a first degree felony. Permits adult certification if a minor, age 15 or older, commits a second or third degree felony or a state jail felony. Keeps adult court jurisdiction over a minor for subsequent offenses, once a minor has been waived.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 277*
Gives district court jurisdiction over juveniles age 16 or older charged with murder. Allows juvenile court judges to hold preliminary hearings and set bail.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 55*
Extends juvenile court control over some offenders to 21 without precluding criminal court jurisdiction. Lowers the waiver age from 16 to 14 for a category of violent offenses and dependent upon prior commitments. Excepts juvenile records from disclosure protection when a case is transferred to adult criminal court.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 154*
Allows a court to incarcerate a juvenile delinquent, age 18 or older, in an adult jail or other adult facility for one year or less.

Procedures

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 494*
Authorizes payment to victims for sexual assault exams. Requires crime victim reimbursement and assessments in certain juvenile and youthful offender cases.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 888*
Requires school principals to report all felonies or other violent criminal acts committed against a school employee or student to the local law enforcement agency and school district.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 4,5, and 8*
Requires the full juvenile parole board to grant parole to aggravated juvenile offenders. Authorizes service of a "promise to appear" for juvenile proceedings based on a felony act. Requires a juvenile judge to set bail based on the same criteria used for adults. Allows a juvenile magistrate to issue a warrant for violating bail.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225, Sec. 11, 21, 14(b), 15(c)*
Authorizes the presence of victims, parents and court-appointed victim advocates and counsels in delinquency proceedings. Expands the methods to serve a summons on a parent. Authorizes contempt for failure to appear.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 212, Sec. 2*
Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to notify the court when transferring a youth to another facility or program.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 373*
Changes the provisions relating to venues in juvenile proceedings and allows juvenile court judges to conduct proceedings in any county within the judicial circuit.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 92*
Requires that notice of certain juvenile hearings need not be given by publication. Requires notice to be waived regarding a person who was notified of the adjudicative hearing and failed to appear.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191, Sec. 4*
Requires a peace officer who takes a juvenile into custody for a drug or alcohol offense to notify a juvenile court officer. Requires the juvenile court officer to try to notify the juvenile's school.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 243, Sec. 1,7*
Expands the rights of victims to attend all juvenile proceedings.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 522*
Describes the rights of victims of alleged delinquent acts and of felony delinquent acts.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 835*
Adds provisions to the list of the rights of victims of an alleged delinquent act.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1291*
Allows a defendant convicted of a sex crime to petition for relief of certain probation conditions.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 133*
Extends the time available for a juvenile to fulfill conditions of informal adjustment to allow the juvenile to avoid formal prosecution.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 253*
Permits victims of juvenile offenders to address the court at dispositional hearings.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 391*
Makes the arrest of an individual who possesses a portable pager on public school property discretionary rather than mandatory.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 637*
Allows a court to continue, under specified circumstances, an emergency shelter care order for a child in need of supervision or assistance or who is delinquent.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 335*
Changes the counties linked for juvenile court jurisdiction in western Massachusetts.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3*
Sec. 23—Specifies that alleged petty offenders do not have a right to counsel at public expense and allows a juvenile to waive counsel in misdemeanor cases.

Sec. 25-26— Allows a one-time extension to the eight-day limit on detention stays. Clarifies school notification procedures imposed on law enforcement agencies.

Sec. 33—Excludes certain minors from sight and sound separation rules applied to jails.

Sec. 50—Authorizes adult residential facilities to admit certain extended jurisdiction juveniles and directs facilities to develop policies for age separation.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 174, HB 232 and 485, Sec. 211.091*
Requires a juvenile officer to assess the impact of dismissing a juvenile court petition on the child.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 268, Sec. 11*
Requires that juveniles be warned of their constitutional rights by a designee trained by a juvenile officer.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 403*
Clarifies the composition and duties of a committee to determine youth placement after discharge from a correctional facility.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 245*
Authorizes a court to expedite an adjudicative hearing that involves acts committed against or witnessed by a child less than 16 years old.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 249*
Defines eligible assaultive and violent children and ensures that they are provided services.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 328*
Adds removal from parental or guardian custody to court's authority when a child is adjudicated delinquent.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 391*
Authorizes a law enforcement officer to take physical custody without court order of runaway juveniles aged 16 and 17.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 124, Sec. 13*
Requires counsel to be provided to children who are not represented by a parent at custodial, post-petition and informal adjustment proceedings.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 148*
Authorizes law enforcement or correctional personnel to take an adjudicated child into temporary custody when waiting to be placed in a juvenile correctional facility.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 131*
Requires adults convicted of and children adjudicated for unlawful sexual contact, including child rape and incest, to undergo DNA testing.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 191*
Authorizes the juvenile court to join a child's parent or guardian as respondent to court action and issue a summons to require the parent or guardian to appear.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 322*
Adds criminal street gang membership as an enhancement factor when the defendant committed a prior felony within three years.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 296*
Establishes formal referral and citation procedures, time limits and sanctions to expedite court processing of juveniles.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 304*
Provides that the predischarge plan for a minor in the custody of a local department shall be sent to the minor's parents. If the minor is to be housed in a detention home upon discharge, a copy of the plan shall be sent to the court and to the facility superintendent and to any custodial social services department.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 451*
Allows a child to make a personal appearance at a detention hearing via two-way electronic video and audio communication. Allows any documents to be filed by FAX.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 802*
Transfers responsibility for approving local jails to house juveniles from the Department of Youth & Family Services to the Department of Corrections. Allows a "dangerous" juvenile of 14 years or older to be transferred to such an approved adult facility. Requires that upon arrest, such juveniles be detained for no longer than 6 hours in a temporary lockup room or ward for juveniles.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 300*
Exempts parents who are victims of their child's offense from payment for the child's support, treatment and confinement.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 395*
Allows a juvenile to be taken into custody pursuant to a court order if the court finds probable cause to believe the juvenile has committed an offense or has violated terms of a disposition order or release order. Allows a juvenile to be taken into custody without a court order if grounds exist for the arrest of an adult in the same circumstances. Allows the release of a detained juvenile upon posting a probation bond set by the courts. Allows the child's parent or guardian to sign for such bond.

Records

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 10*
Establishes a DNA registry that contains samples taken from juveniles age 16 or older adjudicated delinquent for an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225*
Sec. 12—Specifies the types of records considered to be juvenile records and agencies that have access.

Sec. 15—Authorizes the police to take a description, photograph and fingerprint of a child of any age who is charged with a felony. Allows photographs of children charged with certain serious offenses to be released to the public.

Sec. 27—Expands records access to victims and allows law enforcement to disclose information on youth who have escaped or have been issued a felony warrant.

Sec. 34—Extends the time to erase juvenile records. Makes youthful offender records confidential. Lists agencies and people allowed access.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 304, Sec. 7*
Requires law enforcement to notify school officials when a student is arrested for a misdemeanor offense.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 23*
Authorizes the release of a child's records, name, address and parents' names under certain circumstances.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 328*
Gives public access to juvenile adjudicative hearings when a felony is alleged or when the juvenile has been previously adjudicated delinquent. Requires written notice to school superintendents when this category of offender is attending school. Permits fingerprinting and photos to be taken of juveniles charged with the adult equivalent of burglary or any other offense where adult court has exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction.

HI *1995 Hawaii Sess. Laws, Act 100*
Excludes from the standards for the automatic fingerprint identification system any child age 12 or older who comes under family court jurisdiction and is taken into custody for committing certain acts. Requires child's fingerprints to be purged from the system under certain circumstances. Prohibits a child's fingerprint record from being transmitted to any system outside the state.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 44, Sec. 26*
Requires that certain juvenile court records shall not be withheld from public inspection.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 49*
Requires fingerprinting and photographing of juvenile offenders taken into detention.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 218*
Allows release of juvenile records to a school district where the juvenile is enrolled or is seeking to enroll.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 277, Sec. 9*
Allows a juvenile to request expungement of his or her records after certain criteria have been met.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191*
Sec. 10-11—Allows the release of the name of a child alleged to have committed a delinquent act, which would be an aggravated misdemeanor or felony, once a complaint has been filed.

Sec. 14-17, 46—Adds information to the criminal history and intelligence data for juvenile delinquents adjudicated for an aggravated misdemeanor or felony. Requires deletion of this information, except fingerprint cards, if the juvenile commits no serious or aggravated misdemeanor or felony between ages 18 and 21.

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LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1313*
Allows disclosure of court records of a juvenile adjudicated delinquent for violent crimes. Permits release of the name of a juvenile arrested or adjudicated delinquent for certain crimes. Requires juvenile violent crime proceedings to be open to the public.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 112*
Requires the notification of school superintendents of certain police and juvenile court records for an enrollee. Requires confidentiality regarding the records and prohibits their use, except to provide appropriate educational programming and services to the child and to maintain a safe and secure school environment.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 259, Art. 1, Sec. 57*
Requires a report to the legislature on additional offenses to be subject to identification reporting requirements and on the privacy of juvenile records related to the development of separate information and tracking systems.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 43.503, 211.151—Requires law enforcement to fingerprint juveniles arrested for felonies.

Sec. 211.321, 171—Grants access to records to specific individuals including victims and school officials. Allows nonidentifying information to be released in certain circumstances and records of juvenile proceedings to be made public for certain crimes.

Sec. 491.078—Allows prior juvenile adjudications to be used to question the credibility of a witness or a defendant in a criminal case. Requires law enforcement to keep a confidential record of the date and time a child is taken into and released from custody.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, SB 268, Sec. A, F*
Revises supreme court rules to be consistent with current legislation relating to juvenile records.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 444*
Allows juvenile court proceedings to be open to the public unless the court determines that closing the proceedings would be in the best interests of the juvenile or the public.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 124, Sec. 9, 12, 16, 17, 18.*

Specifies circumstances where access to juvenile records may be granted to school officials, law enforcement officers and the public. Provides that court orders to suspend juvenile driving privileges be kept confidential and destroyed at the expiration of the order. Revises circumstances for fingerprints and photographs.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 152*
Prohibits counseling centers from disclosing private information concerning a minor to a parent, guardian or custodian without the minor's authorization, unless failure to disclose would jeopardize the minor's health and well-being.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 303*
Grants access to juvenile court records to human services staff and law enforcement officers regarding their duties under the National Child Protection Act.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 304*
Allows DHS inspection of juvenile court records for background investigations of early childhood workers in a licensed facility or home.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 136*
Allows the release of certain information to the victim of the delinquent act of a juvenile.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 262*
Requests the department of public safety to develop and maintain a juvenile justice information system. Permits minors in custody for a felony or a misdemeanor offense punishable by jail to be photographed and fingerprinted without the juvenile court's consent. Orders the records destroyed if the min[illegible]s not referred to juvenile court within 10 days of being taken into custody, otherwise, transfers the photographs and fingerprints to the statewide information system. Establishes confidentiality of a minor's records and limits the list of individuals to whom the records can be released.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 626*
Requires that instructional and support staff be notified when a student is arrested for certain criminal offenses. Mandates confidentiality.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 273*
Allows public access to juvenile court records when the juvenile is 16 or older and has committed an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 286*
Permits access to an applicant's juvenile records when seeking a concealed weapons permit.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 429*
Provides that school superintendents be notified when a delinquency petition for certain serious offenses is filed in juvenile court. Limits disclosure to principals and others.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 430*
Includes United States Probation and Pretrial Services Officers among authorities who may review the records of a juvenile offender without first obtaining a court order.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chapters 558 and 804*
Allows the court to make available, if in the public interest, the name of a juvenile 14 or older who is charged with a delinquent act that if committed by an adult would be considered an "act of violence."

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 324*
Adds school boards and private schools to groups receiving shared juvenile records of enrollees. Provides immunity for school employees who release such information.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 55*
Excepts juvenile records from disclosure protection when a juvenile case is transferred to adult criminal court.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 154*
Requires confidentiality of a minor's misconduct records except under certain circumstances. Allows a juvenile delinquent to petition the court for expungement of his or her records.

Weapons Offenses

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 33*
Requires school districts to expel or suspend students who possess firearms or deadly weapons on school grounds.

AZ *1995 Ariz. Sess. Laws, Chap. 280*
Mandates a one-year expulsion of students for carrying weapons on school grounds.

AR *1995 Ark. Act, Act 567*
Requires that students who possess weapons at school be expelled for at least one year.

CT	*1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 225* *Sec. 9*—Defines delinquent act and adds crimes, including weapons offenses, to the category of serious juvenile offenses. *Sec. 22*—Requires the court to consider the use of a firearm as an aggravating factor in determining a disposition.
ID	*1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 248* Requires immediate suspension and a mandatory one-year expulsion of students carrying weapons on school property.
IA	*1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191* *Sec. 8*—Excludes juvenile court jurisdiction from a juvenile age 16 or older who commits a drug-related firearm or offensive weapon offense, a weapons offense that is punishable by a felony, certain gang activities or a forcible felony. *Sec. 21-23*—Requires school officials to establish procedures for reporting to local law enforcement when a dangerous weapon is possessed on school premises, to expel a student who possesses a firearm at school and to provide for school reintegration. *Sec. 50, 52-53*—Makes it a felony to carry or transport a firearm on public or nonpublic school grounds, with exemptions.
KS	*1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 27* Requires school boards to adopt a policy on weapons possession that includes referring students to law enforcement agencies.
LA	*1995 La. Acts, Act 1292* Requires a one-year expulsion of students found in possession of a firearm at school or at a school event.
ME	*1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 263* Prohibits the transfer or sale of firearms to a minor without parental approval. Creates a new Class D crime of unlawful transfer of a firearm to a minor.
MD	*1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 347* Requires schools to expel, for a minimum of one year, a student who has brought a firearm to school.
MN	*1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art 3, Sec. 12* Requires schools to refer students who bring a firearm to school to the justice system.
MO	*1995 Mo. Laws, HB 345, Sec. 160.261* Requires school districts to suspend any student who brings a firearm to school.
MT	*1995 Mont. Sess. Laws, Chap. 457* Mandates a one year expulsion of students carrying weapons on school grounds.
NV	*1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 442* Establishes penalties for a child adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm.
NV	*1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 444, Sec. 1, 5* Requires that a person age 16 or older who commits a weapons offense and who has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult be tried in adult court. Requires that a child age 14 or older who is charged with a weapons offense may be certified as an adult unless the court finds that the child was not the principal actor in the offense or that certain circumstances exist.

NV	*1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 706* Requires the suspension or expulsion of a pupil who possesses a firearm at school or a school-sponsored activity.
NH	*1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 231* Requires suspension or expulsion of a student for weapons possession.
NJ	*1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 128* Requires that a student who assaults a school employee or other student with a weapon on school property or at a school event shall be removed from school and placed in alternative education.
NY	*1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 269* Establishes mandatory suspension for students found in possession of a weapon or firearm at school.
OK	*1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 210* Mandates suspension for any student carrying weapons on school grounds.
RI	*1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 61* Mandates a one-year suspension for students carrying weapons on school grounds, in compliance with federal law.
RI	*1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 67* Suspends a minor's driver's license for six months for weapons possession on school grounds and delays a minor, without a license, for applying for one, if convicted of the same offense.
SC	*1995 S.C. Acts, Act 39* Requires school expulsion for possession of weapon.
TN	*1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 85* Authorizes juvenile courts to detain juvenile offenders charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, even if the juvenile has no previous offense record.
TN	*1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chapters 102 and 215* Requires school personnel to report to the principal or principal's designee any reasonable suspicion that a student possesses a weapon.
TN	*1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 268* Requires a one-year expulsion of students who bring firearms onto school grounds without authorization.
VA	*1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 511* Clarifies the "closed container" exception to prohibition of firearms on school property.
VA	*1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 801* Requires the school board to expel a student who has brought a firearm onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity.
WV	*1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 90* Makes it unlawful for anyone to possess a firearm or other deadly weapon on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.
WY	*1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 57* Mandates expulsion for students carrying weapons on school property to comply with federal law.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CONTROL

License Revocation/Suspension

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 9*
Outlines when a minors' driver's license can be revoked for possession or use of controlled substances or alcohol in violation of a municipal ordinance. Requires completion of a drug or alcohol education or rehab program before privileges are restored.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-0588*
Outlines when a driver's license can be suspended or revoked for those under 21 when their blood tests disclose a high alcohol level.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 48, Sec. 7*
Outlines when a motor vehicle license may be revoked for youths under 21 years old for driving while intoxicated. Defines the limits of the revocation period and the penalties.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 143, Sec. 8*
Establishes a youthful offender substance abuse program for teenagers whose licenses are revoked for driving while intoxicated with program costs to be paid by participants, based upon sliding fees.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 520*
Describes penalties for minors driving with a 0.04 blood alcohol concentration. Describes when suspension and revocation of a driver's license can be used for alcohol-related offenses.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 26*
Makes it unlawful for youths under 21 years of age to operate a motor vehicle while having any alcohol in the blood and requires suspension for at least one year without a preliminary hearing for juvenile offenders with provisional licenses.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 555*
Outlines when a driver's license may be revoked for juveniles found driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and other penalties.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chapters 164 and 217*
Establishes chemical tests to be given to teenagers under 18 suspected of driving while intoxicated and provides penalties for initial and subsequent violations.

SD *1995 S.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 99*
Revises the policies regarding suspensions and expulsions of pupils who use or possess controlled substances on school premises or at school activities.

Penalties/Procedures/Services/Offenses

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 539, Sec. 4*
Grants immunity to school officials who report students for suspected drug abuse.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 81*
Defines when a minor may be charged, prosecuted and sentenced as an adult for possession, control and consumption of alcoholic beverages if under 21 years of age and the possession of tobacco if under 19.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 129, Sec. 6*
Changes the drinking age in the public nuisance statute from 18 to 21.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 138, Sec. 9*
Grants concurrent jurisdiction over a youth under 18 charged with underage drinking and specifies exceptions.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 102*
Requires that all traffic, alcohol, and drug adjudications of any minor be entered immediately on their driving record by the Division of Motor Vehicles, bringing Delaware into compliance with federal law.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 228, Sec. 30-42*
Requires pre-employment drug screenings for personnel in programs for children and youth.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 361*
Amends the existing law by increasing the penalties for a minor found possessing marijuana.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-0613*
Prohibits a parent or guardian from permitting their residence to be used by a child or ward under 21 for consumption of alcohol.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 182*
Applies a reasonable and prudent standard to a determination that a caretaker should have known that their acts or omissions would lead to the presence of an illegal drug in their child's body in a child-in-need-of-assistance (CINA) procedure. Establishes that the presence of an illegal drug in a child's body is not the sole reason for a CINA determination.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191*
Sec. 4—Requires a peace officer who takes a juvenile into custody for a drug or alcohol offense to notify a juvenile court officer. Requires the juvenile court officer to try to notify the juvenile's school.

Sec. 8—Excludes juvenile court jurisdiction from a juvenile age 16 or older who commits certain drug and other related offenses.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 214, Sec. 2*
Excludes juvenile offenders who commit certain driving under the influence (DUI) offenses from eligibility for diversion programs.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 639*
Raises the age from 18 to 21 for purchasing or possessing alcoholic beverages, and adds penalties.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 150*
Increases penalties for those convicted of alcohol or drug-related driving offenses when transporting a minor.

MI *1995 Mich. Pub. Acts, Act 447*
Establishes civil and criminal penalties for providing alcoholic beverages to a minor or when a minor possesses, purchases or consumes alcoholic beverages.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 258*
Details penalties and treatment procedures for minors suspected of or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 64*
Lowers the blood alcohol concentration to 0.02 for people under 21 years of age with respect to driving while intoxicated.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 75*
Amends the penal law in relation to the criminal possession or sale of a controlled substance or marijuana and provides that the item in possession or for sale be of a specified weight.

NC *1995 N.C. Laws, Chap. 336*
Requires mental health and substance abuse agencies to notify and consult with parents before discharging their children.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 299*
Expands the definition of "unruly child" to include youth under age 21 who commit alcohol-related offenses.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 209*
Prohibits the sale, possession or consumption of any brewed or fermented product to youths under 18 years of age. Defines the term "low-alcohol beverages." See Ohio Revised Code *Sec. 4301.22* in this act.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 274*
Establishes a new definition for nonintoxicating beverages, describes penalties for selling them to minors and creates a Prevention of Youth Access to Alcoholic Beverages and Low-Point Beer Act.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, Act 81*
Establishes that people 18 years or older, who commit certain drug- and alcohol-related motor vehicle offenses while transporting minors are guilty of child endangerment, and outlines penalties and fines.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.08*
Requires interagency coordination to provide emergency assistance to children and families for chemical dependency treatment.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 97, Sec. 4*
Adds possession, control or use of alcohol by students to grounds for suspension and expulsion.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 116*
Amends the law to permit retail liquor licensees to hold events on their licensed premises attended by minors but with some restrictions.

Prevention/Education

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 182, Sec. 2*
Grants school boards discretion over the content of instruction on substance abuse.

FL *1995 Fla. Laws, Chap. 161*
Adds the Secretary of Juvenile Justice to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) board.

ID *1995 Idaho Sess. Laws, Chap. 160*
Provides that a portion of the taxes collected on tobacco products be used to facilitate and provide substance abuse programs in the public school system.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 212, Sec. 4*
Appropriates funds to the office of the governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator and the Iowa Substance Abuse Clearinghouse for FY 1996.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-33*
Requires AFDC and ASPIRE-JOBS participants to participate in drug or alcohol abuse treatment, if applicable.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326, Sec. 32.115, 135.460, 620.1100, 1103*
Creates a youth opportunities and violence prevention fund and gives tax credits for individuals and corporations that contribute to certain programs including dropout prevention and drug and alcohol prevention.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 25*
Adds the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 504*
Allows for the special design and issuance of license plates to finance the program for drug abuse resistance education, sets fees and regulations for continuing the support of this program.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 2*
Requires treatment and random testing of AFDC recipients determined to have substance abuse problems. Denies assistance for noncompliance.

Tobacco Use Control

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 470*
Establishes fines and penalties for juveniles who purchase, possess or use cigarettes or other tobacco products.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 682*
Requires a valid driver's license or other written documentary evidence of age when purchasing cigarettes, cigarette paper or tobacco of any description to prove age to be 18 or older.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 683*
Appropriates $60,000 for the next two years to the office of the attorney general to enforce current laws forbidding the sale of tobacco products to minors.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 241*
Requires proof of age when buying tobacco products if there are reasonable grounds to believe purchaser is under 18. Prohibits local ordinances and other rules governing tobacco sales.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, S. 275*
Prohibits smoking in child care centers and family day care homes during hours of operation unless smoking cannot be seen by an enrolled child and smoking occurs in a separately ventilated area or outdoors.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 77*
Requires that all tobacco vending machines be placed in direct line of sight of an authorized person and that electronic locking devices be installed to prevent children from buying tobacco products. Prohibits the sale of tobacco products from vending machines that dispense nontobacco products. Establishes penalties.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 675*
Requires a notice be posted in a conspicuous manner on any vending machine selling tobacco products. Establishes fines for those who knowingly permit the purchase of tobacco products to minors.

WELFARE REFORM AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

AFDC - General

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 65, Sec. 18*
Requires a cost-of-living survey to maintain sufficiency and work incentives.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, Act 89-6, Sec. 4-1*
Requires all applicants for aid to submit personal plans for achieving employment.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995*
Sec. 6—Creates spending cap for AFDC. Allows adjustment of eligibility standards and benefit levels to keep spending within the cap. Authorizes additional spending only if approved by the state budget committee.

Sec. 9, 13-21, 23, 28, 33, 89—Specifies that adult recipients must sign a personal responsibility agreement detailing recipient obligations.

Sec. 96—Creates a welfare reform study committee and requires it to report its findings to the legislature.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 116*
Specifies the sanctions applying to recipients who fail to comply with AFDC program requirements, including limiting benefits to children for three months followed by no benefits for six months.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 234, Sec. 34*
Requires the state to specify timeline goals for program participants, develop performance standards for program evaluation and authorize contracts with public and private providers.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1219, Sec. 2*
Mandates that the department replace the current AFDC and food stamp programs with alternative employment programs by 1999.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418*
Sec. A-7—Requires that all families sign a contract outlining the responsibility of the department and the family. Requires a home visit program for AFDC recipients, as part of the family contract, to verify new and existing information and to reinforce reporting responsibilities.

Sec. A-33—Requires AFDC and ASPIRE-JOBS participants to participate in drug or alcohol abuse treatment, if applicable.

Sec. A-36—Establishes two executive branch committees to monitor state welfare reform activities and to streamline application and case maintenance functions. Outlines duties and membership.

Sec. B-1—Establishes a commission to study poverty issues relating to working parents, the contribution of poverty to increased welfare spending, economic development efforts, and public and private sector initiatives.

Sec. D-1—D-7—Establishes a commission to study AFDC reliance issues, including time limits, employability, child support and housing. Requires a report to the Legislature.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 1, 4-11*
Makes the parents of a minor parent financially responsible for child support for a grandchild receiving assistance. Establishes a welfare reform pilot project defining eligibility, case management and employability training for recipients, with exceptions. Permits sanctions, including benefit reduction and termination. Establishes a one-time welfare avoidance grant equal to up to three monthly benefit payments.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 128—Requires a study of reverting the implementation of the welfare program to the municipalities for management.

Sec. 132—Requires that the clothing allowance payment be made by voucher with no cash value.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 17*
Requires that when sanctions are imposed that reduce AFDC benefits, the children's agency be notified that children in that household are at-risk.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455*
Sec. 10-15—Requires the state to implement federal waivers for welfare reform in designated counties. Requires a report on the number of adults declared ineligible for cash assistance for failure to meet a self-sufficiency contract.

Sec. 12—Requires the state to evaluate annually the impact of the Welfare Reform Act, including information on adults made ineligible because of their noncompliance.

Sec. 19—Requires the state to adjust the standard of need for AFDC every other year.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224, Sec. 22*
Requires AFDC recipients to develop self-sufficiency contracts including participation in employability activities to maintain eligibility. Specifies supportive services to include transportation expenses, participation and work expenses, parenting education, budgeting, relocation and family planning, not to include abortion. Limits caseload of an AFDC case manager to 70 or fewer cases.

ND *1995 N.D. Sess. Laws, Chap. 459*
Establishes a demonstration project that combines AFDC, food stamps and fuel assistance benefits. Requires that child care and employment and training assistance be included.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346*
Sec. 7—Creates a task force to study various welfare self-sufficiency issues and to report its findings to the Legislature.

Sec. 11-14, 21, 27—Requires, as a condition of eligibility, each recipient to sign a personal responsibility agreement that details the recipient's obligations.

Sec. 28—Establishes a disability benefits project to provide increased legal assistance for mentally or physically disabled AFDC recipients.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 9, 23*
Issues a cash incentive for AFDC recipients who provide material information in the establishment of paternity, payable upon the collection of support payments. Allows JOBS Plus participants to retain the full child support payment collected.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 15*
Requires the state to seek federal funds to implement an entrepreneurial development program to allow AFDC recipients to become self-employed.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 2*
Requires treatment and random testing of AFDC recipients determined to have substance abuse problems. Denies assistance for noncompliance.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655*
Sec. 1.03, 1.04, 3.02—Requires the state to assess family needs and to provide support services including child care, education and transportation.

Sec. 2.02—Requires recipients to sign a bill of responsibilities that defines the obligations of the recipient and the state.

Sec. 6.01, 8.02-8.08, 8.10—Requires the state to help welfare recipients apply for federal assistance. Directs the state to reduce error rates in AFDC and food stamp programs. Creates two task forces: one on public assistance fraud and one on electronic benefits transfers. Creates a comprehensive project on fraud detection and prevention.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450*
Sec. 63.1-105.3—Creates alternative lump sum payment equal to AFDC benefits for up to four months as response to one-time emergencies.

Sec. 63.1-133.49—Requires VIEW recipients to sign an agreement of personal responsibility that clearly defines the recipient's obligations in the program.

AFDC - Eligibility/Benefit Levels

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 1*
Reduces benefit payments by 6.8 percent for all recipients. Reduces benefits a further eight percent for recipients living in subsidized housing. Freezes benefits at the new level until 1997. Reduces the benefit payment for new residents during their first year to 90 percent of the benefits paid to other recipients. Establishes the time a minor parent recipient of AFDC may receive benefits to 21 months with consideration for exemption. Eligibility requires specific guidelines for education completion.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 479*
Eliminates the 100-hour rule for two-parent family eligibility.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 53, Sec. 21*
Limits benefits paid to new residents to the lesser of Iowa's and their former state's payment standard for six months.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-37*
Excludes the vehicle asset limit in determining AFDC eligibility, pending federal waiver approval.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 1*
Permits AFDC recipients to save up to $5,000 without affecting eligibility determination. Raises the automobile asset limit to $5,000 in determining eligibility. Eliminates the 100 hour rule and work history rule as limits on eligibility for two parent families in a pilot program.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110 (b)—Sets asset limit at $2,500 and exempts the value of an automobile up to $5,000.

Sec. 110 (d), 111—Reduces benefit levels by 2.75 percent and establishes an income disregard of $30 and one half the remainder for AFDC recipients who are not exempt from work requirement and time limits. Suspends public assistance benefits to a recipient who inherits, receives a damage award or whose net winning or payoff in any lottery exceeds $600. Requires recipients to report this money.

Sec. 122—Requires AFDC recipients to provide proof of immunization for each child to maintain eligibility.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178, Sec. 3*
Eliminates the 100-hour, work history and labor force participation rules for eligibility in the two parent AFDC program. Increases the value of a car exempt from the asset rule for eligibility.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455, Sec. 1*
Extends AFDC payments to pregnant women during their last trimester of pregnancy. Changes the federal poverty guideline regarding Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and infants.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224, Sec. 2*
Expands eligibility for two parent families. Eliminates the 100-hour rule.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346*
Sec. 2—Increases asset limits for eligibility. Eliminates the 100-hour rule for two parent families.

Sec. 10—Requires AFDC recipients to show proof of immunization for minor children before benefits can be recertified.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 5*
Denies benefits to an AFDC applicant or recipient who refuses prescribed treatment for mental health or substance abuse problems.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part IV, Sec. 3*
Sets asset limits for determining AFDC eligibility at $10,000 for a vehicle and $2,500 for all other assets. Eliminates the 100-hour rule from eligibility determination for two parent families.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 1.07*
Increases asset limits for eligibility.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.4*
Specifies that, when possible, AFDC be provided to needy two-parent families on the same terms that AFDC is provided to single-parent families.

AFDC - Employment-Related Policies

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194*
Sec. 1—Extends child care and Medicaid benefits to two years for former AFDC recipients who work. Creates an opportunity certificate of $1,500 in a tax credit that an AFDC recipient can use to negotiate employment.

Sec. 19, 26-27—Creates a task force to study the effectiveness of the current job training programs for participating AFDC and General Assistance recipients. Requires a report of the data, recommendations and findings to the Human Services and Appropriations committees.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 65, Sec. 20, 23, 25-26, 28*
Requires AFDC recipients to participate in work, education, training, work eligibility, parenting or personal responsibility activities to maintain AFDC eligibility. Allows assistance reductions for noncompliance and permanent AFDC prohibition if a recipient family is noncompliant three or more times, with exceptions.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 479*
Grants tax credits to employers of AFDC recipients. Establishes a JOBS program.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 47-1995, Sec. 16*
Allows AFDC benefits to be diverted to child care subsidies for employed AFDC recipients until family income exceeds the poverty level. Provides for 12 months of child care for families earning less than 133 percent of the federal poverty level after the family leaves AFDC with former recipient paying up to half of the child care cost.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 336-1995, Sec. 28*
Allows the department to create a requirement that nonexempt adult recipients must engage in public service work if not employed full-time. Requires recipients to register at the local employment office as a condition for receiving benefits.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 1, 7*
Continues the Family Investment Program and the JOBS program at decreased funding levels. Appropriates funds for education and training in other public assistance programs and caps administrative costs at 5 percent.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 997, Sec. 460*
Prohibits payment of benefits to families if the parents have refused a job offer.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1219, Sec. 1*
Terminates the benefits of recipients who refuse work.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418*
Sec. A-11—Provides child care assistance to former recipients recently terminated because of wage or hour increase and work search activities.

Sec. A-13—Creates the ASPIRE-Plus program upon approval of a waiver, as a five year work supplementation program in three regions, that encourages employers to develop jobs for participants. Limits participation and placement. Diverts funding through AFDC and Food Stamps to ASPIRE-Plus programs. Defines employer responsibilities and allows reimbursement of up to 50 percent of minimum wage to employer participants. Allows ASPIRE-Plus participants to receive a wage supplement as a result of net income loss. Creates Mainserve as an alternative volunteer work experience program for AFDC and ASPIRE-JOBS participants. Defines eligibility and duration.

Sec. A-20—Grants short term alternative assistance to AFDC eligible applicants to obtain or retain employment through one time voucher payments of up to three times the AFDC monthly grant.

Sec. A-33—Permits contracting with public and private agencies to establish job placement opportunities.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 1*
Requires nonexempt adult recipients to participate in community service work or a paid job after three months of receiving assistance. Exempts recipients caring for child under 3. Requires the department to provide participants with support services, including child care and transportation (pilot program). Extends Medicaid coverage for two years after a recipient leaves assistance for a job.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110—Requires the head of a nonexempt family to work 20 hours per week in a job or community service after 60 days of receiving assistance if the family has no children under school age. Provides for child care.

Sec. 110(l)—Creates work supplementation program that uses AFDC and food stamp payments to subsidize jobs for AFDC recipients. Allows the program to require participation, though volunteers get first opportunity. Requires that employers pay a minimum of $4.50 per hour. Requires the department to supplement recipients' wages if necessary to equal amount of assistance family would have received. Sets maximum subsidy of $3.50 per hour for nine months. Grants a tax credit of $100 a month to employers of AFDC recipients.

Sec. 131, 138—Establishes a committee to review job training programs. Requires a study of the feasibility and cost effectiveness of expanding the Parents Fair Share Pilot program. Extends the program to provide job training and placement and parental responsibility training to young men who are or soon to be, parents. Requires a report to the joint committee on ways and means and joint committee on human services and elderly affairs.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178, Art. 5*
Establishes a demonstration project to provide subsidized temporary jobs for AFDC recipients. Requires recipients in the demonstration project to develop job search plan, to conduct an immediate job search and to work in a community service job for 67 days if no subsidized or unsubsidized job is found after eight weeks of searching.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 593, Sec. 17*
Requires the state to track JOBS participants after program completion.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455*
Sec. 15, 19-20—Permits cost-shared transitional child care assistance be continued for 24 months for AFDC families whose two year time limit has expired. Allows the state to require public assistance recipients to contribute up to 20 percent of gross family income for child care. Requires the adjustment rate for child care be reexamined every second year, not to exceed specific amounts and according to certain criteria.

Sec. 22—Requires a study on adjusting the minimum wage, job availability, pay and benefit scales and job training resources. Requires the state to catalog job training programs and study job availability and minimum wage. Requires findings be presented to the governor's roundtable and clerk of the Legislature.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224*
Sec. 21—Requires the principal wage earner of a family receiving assistance to participate in education, job skills training, work experience, job search or employment. Requires parents of children between 12 weeks and six months to participate in a reduced program involving activities in family nurturing or education.

Sec. 24—Allows nonexempt recipients to elect to have higher earnings disregard in return for lower benefit payments.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346*
Sec. 5—Creates a demonstration project in five counties in which the AFDC grant amount will be calculated by subtracting net nonexempt earned income from the need standard to determine whether "fill the gap" budgeting will lead to an increase in employment.

Sec. 8—Requires a joint study on implementing a system to provide job referral services to AFDC recipients through the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

Sec. 11-14, 21, 27—Requires an AFDC recipient to complete employability requirements including school-related activities to maintain eligibility for AFDC benefits, with exceptions.

Sec. 22—Extends availability of child care and medical assistance to 24 months for recipients who leave AFDC because of employment. Requires the state to assist AFDC recipients to apply for the earned Income Tax Credit, if qualified.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816*
Sec. 12-15, 23—Expands JOBS Plus program statewide as an employability alternative to provide subsidized, time limited employment to recipients of AFDC, food stamps, public assistance and unemployment benefits. Limits participation. Provides rules for JOBS Plus employers in regards to placements, wage payments and tax deductions. Requires state reimbursement of JOBS Plus employers for Social Security, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and minimum wages. Provides for sanctions against noncompliant employers.

Sec. 24—Expands the Oregon JOBS Individual Education Account statewide to provide individual educational scholarships for former JOBS Plus participants to continue their education. Requires tax exempt or deferred employer contributions.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III*
Sec. 3, 4—Requires state agencies to provide labor market information for use in employment and training development for AFDC recipients. Provides relocation assistance for families to maximize job opportunities.

Sec. 2, 11, 12—Requires AFDC recipients to participate in employability activities and a family skills training program to maintain eligibility. Requires participation in work programs once the youngest child is age 1. Encourages AFDC recipients to voluntarily participate when the youngest child is 6 months old.

Sec. 5—Requires state goals for the placement and retention of AFDC recipients in employment programs. Permits the use of incentive funds to improve performance outcomes. Requires state agencies to establish recruitment and hiring goals to permit 10 percent of jobs to be filled with welfare or food stamp recipients. Requires the state to develop curricula that target and train AFDC clients, emphasizing their aptitudes, interests and abilities for future top growth occupations. Permits AFDC payments to be paid as a wage subsidy to recipients or a tax credit to employers offering new jobs. Grants a tax credit to employers who hire AFDC recipients, with certain restrictions.

Sec. 15—Authorizes the state to seek federal funds to implement an entrepreneurial development program to allow AFDC recipients to become self-employed.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655*
Sec. 1.03-.04, 4.01-.04, 7.01-.02—Requires, as an immediate condition of eligibility, that recipients work at least 30 hours per week in a job or community service or 20 hours of job training, if appropriate. Exempts certain recipients, including caretakers of children under 5.

Sec. 4.02—Establishes a subsidized work development program for AFDC recipients.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450*
Sec. 63.1-133.41—Creates the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) program. Requires AFDC recipients to participate in work activity within 90 days after receiving assistance. Specifies exemptions.

Sec. 63.1-133.49—Creates Full Employment Program to fund subsidized jobs for AFDC recipients. Uses recipients' AFDC and food stamp benefits to provide wages.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 12*
Eliminates the exemption from participation in work activities for caretakers of children between 1 and 3 years of age. Requires AFDC applicants to engage in job orientation and search activities before receiving AFDC benefits.

AFDC - Family Cap/Child Exclusion

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 196*
Eliminates the increase in a family's benefits for a new child if the family has received aid continuously for 10 months prior to the birth. Specifies exceptions and maintains eligibility for other benefits such as child care, food stamps, health care, employment and training.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 1*
Reduces by one-half the increase in a family's benefits for a child born into a family that has received aid continuously for 10 months prior to the birth.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 89-6, Sec. 4-2*
Eliminates the increase in benefits for a child conceived while the family was receiving welfare assistance.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995, Sec. 96*
Eliminates the increase in a family's benefits for a child born more than 10 months after the family qualified for assistance.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 491, Sec. 1*
Eliminates a benefit increase when a child is born 10 months after the family began receiving AFDC.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 110 (c)*
Eliminates an increase in a family's benefits for child a conceived while the family received assistance. Allows the family to retain up to $90 per month in increased child support payments for that child.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224, Sec. 24*
Eliminates an increase in a family's benefits for a child born after 10 months of receiving welfare. Excludes child support for that child from the family's countable income.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 15*
Provides that an increase in benefits for additional children born to an AFDC recipient more than 10 months after application be paid in a voucher that can be used only for the child's expenses.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 1*
Denies benefit increases to AFDC recipients who have children 10 or more months after the eligibility date. Allows for voucher payments for the additional child for particular goods and services as needed for the mother to participate in education, training or employment activities.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.7*
Eliminates an increase in AFDC benefits for a child born while a family receives AFDC. Provides that child support is not counted as income for eligibility purposes.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 12*
Eliminates an increase in a family's benefits for a child born more than 10 months after the family is eligible for assistance. Specifies exceptions and maintains eligibility for other benefits including food stamps and Medicaid.

AFDC - Fraud/EBT

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 25*
Requires the development of an early detection system to identify fraudulent AFDC, food stamp and Medicaid applications prior to granting assistance. Requires the development and implementation of a new biometric identifier system for AFDC and general assistance to identify individuals through retinal scanning, finger imaging, hand geometry or facial features.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 65, Sec. 11*
Denies assistance to an AFDC recipient or applicant who transferred real or personal property of $500 or more or to an inmate of any public institution.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995, Sec. 9, 56*
Denies AFDC assistance to any person convicted of welfare fraud or drug offenses (10 years for felony convictions and one year for misdemeanors). Requires restitution be made for welfare fraud.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 685*
Creates a pilot program, with optional statewide implementation, to permit electronic distribution of public entitlement benefits and services.

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LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 698*
Strengthens public assistance fraud prevention activities by authorizing investigations, subpoenas and protective orders.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 112-117—Sets penalties for fraud and duplication of benefits, including disqualification from receiving benefits and repayment. Permits access to data from Department of Revenue and wage garnishment to recover fraudulent payments. Establishes pilot program to evaluate use of two-digit fingerprinting and digitized photo matching system. Establishes a toll-free telephone number to report suspected cases. Requires termination of employees who participate in or assist fraudulent payments. Requires correction officials to report monthly on inmates to ensure that they are not collecting assistance.

Sec. 119—Requires development of a statewide electronic benefits transfer system to administer food stamps. Creates a debit card system to purchase food via retail electronic teller machines.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455, Sec. 23*
Establishes a task force to study the feasibility of an electronic benefit transfer system to distribute public assistance benefits. Requires a report to the Legislature.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 23-25*
Requires the establishment of a fraud control program including a telephone service hotline for reporting suspected welfare fraud. Requires a development plan for a technology-based system to reduce fraud, simplify eligibility procedures and reduce administrative cost.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 379*
Prohibits additional public assistance to those convicted of welfare fraud for a period of time.

AFDC - School Attendance Requirements

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 89-6, Sec. 4-1.9, 4-8*
Requires a parent who is under 18 and who does not have a high school diploma or GED to attend school. Considers children in grades one through six failing to attend school as mismanagement of assistance and subjects parents to sanctions.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 336-1995, Sec. 17*
Requires recipient and dependent children of school age to attend school if they have not graduated from high school or attained a GED.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 53, Sec. 1*
Requires that minor parents must have graduated from high school, have a GED or be engaged full-time in completing this requirement. Conditions this requirement on the availability of child care.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 997*
Prohibits payment of AFDC benefits for children that do not meet school attendance requirements. Requires documentation of school attendance for eligibility and redetermination.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-7*
Requires minor AFDC recipients to complete high school and participate in ASPIRE-JOBS Program, with exceptions.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110(i), 121—Prohibits benefits for children under 14 who fail to comply with school attendance requirements. Requires that recipients document compliance. Requires that parents under 20 have high school diploma or GED or be enrolled in school to qualify for benefits. Provides for child care.

Sec. 121—Requires school-age recipients under 14 years to provide documentation of their compliance of school attendance requirements. Provides conditions for probation and discontinuance of AFDC.

Sec. 136—Requires a study to require children of AFDC recipients to attend school until receipt of a diploma or equivalent as part of eligibility.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178*
Sets school attendance standards for recipients in STRIDE program and a monthly work or volunteer requirement for part-time students in high school or post-secondary education.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224, Sec. 24*
Requires adults in recipient families to ensure that children attend school. Provides that benefit payments may be reduced if parents have failed to take reasonable action.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 11-13*
Allows the department to withhold benefits for children who fail to maintain adequate school attendance. Requires parents receiving AFDC to attend parent education programs or to enlist their child in Head Start, early childhood education or Parents as Teachers, with exceptions.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 23*
Denies AFDC benefits to minor parents who do not fulfill school attendance obligations.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 8 and Part V, Sec. 3, 4*
Requires that minor AFDC recipients follow school attendance policies to maintain eligibility for AFDC. Provides special educational services for teen parents.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655*
Sec. 2.02—Requires dependent children under 10 and parents under 19 to attend school regularly unless they have a high school diploma or GED.

Sec. 2.02(b), 2.03—Makes school attendance for children a requirement to receive public assistance.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.4, 63.1-105.7*
Excludes families from AFDC eligibility for noncompliance with school attendance laws.

AFDC - Teen Parents

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 1*
Establishes the time a minor parent recipient of AFDC may receive benefits to 21 months with consideration for exemption. Eligibility requires specific guidelines for education completion.

IL *1995 Ill. Acts, P.A. 89-6, Sec. 4-1.2c*
Prohibits payment of assistance to an unmarried parent under 18 unless that parent resides with her parent or is in another adult supervised living arrangement. Provides exceptions for abuse and independent living.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 46-1995, Sec. 10*
Requires a minor parent to reside with an adult parent or guardian to be eligible for AFDC benefits.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 53*
Requires minor parents to live with their parent or legal guardian. Provides exceptions for abuse and independent living. Specifies that a minor parent not required to live with parents must participate in a family development program.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418*
Sec. A-7—Requires AFDC payment to teen parents in voucher form.

Sec. A-14—Establishes the Peer Education Project to provide family planning, education and counseling services to AFDC recipients at risk of repeat pregnancy and minors at risk of becoming AFDC recipients. Provides employment for AFDC recipients as peer education workers.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 110 (i)*
Prohibits benefit payments to teen parents not living with an adult relative except in situations of neglect, abuse or addiction. Provides for a structured residential setting for teens who cannot live with a relative. Provides that department shall disregard household income up to twice the federal poverty level in cases of teen parents living with relatives.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 178, Sec. 4*
Requires minor parents to live in their parental home to receive benefits. Specifies exceptions, including danger of abuse.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 14, 27*
Requires minor AFDC parents to reside with their parent or guardian to qualify for benefits.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 5*
Denies AFDC benefits to a minor parent who does not reside with parent or legal guardian, with exceptions.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 8 and Part V, Sec. 3, 4*
Requires that minor AFDC recipients live with a parent to maintain eligibility for AFDC.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 516*
Denies eligibility to AFDC applicants under age 18 who do not reside with their legal parent or guardian, with exceptions.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-105.6*
Requires unmarried minor parents to reside with their parents as a condition of eligibility. Specifies exceptions, including danger of abuse.

AFDC - Time Limits

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194, Sec. 1*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 21 months of benefit payments. Exempts recipients on the basis of incapacity, caring for a disabled household member, caring for a child under age 1, attending school or determined to be unemployable. Creates six month, renewable extensions for recipients who make a good faith effort to find work but are not able to do so or who have been subjected to domestic violence. Gives nonexempt adults priority in the JOBS program. Provides for the disregard of earned income up to the federal poverty level for families subject to the time limit.

DE *Vol. 70 Del. Laws, Chap. 65, Sec. 24*
Provides for time limited AFDC payments, without specifying the time limit.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 89-6, Sec. 4-17*
Establishes a demonstration project that limits nonexempt adult recipients whose youngest child is 13 or older to 24 months of assistance in 48 months. Exempts certain families. Provides no basis for extensions.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 336-1995, Sec. 13, 25*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 24 months of assistance. Exempts certain families. Allows recipients to earn an additional month of benefits for every six months of employment after they begin receiving AFDC. Provides no further basis for extensions. Provides that assistance received in other states counts against the time limit.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1219, Sec. 1*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 24 months of assistance in a 60 month period. Exempts certain families. Allows the department to extend the eligibility of a recipient if the recipient has actively sought a job but has been unable to secure one or where a job was lost for reasons other than performance.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 110 (i)*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to a total of 24 months of assistance in a 60-month period. Exempts recipients who are disabled, who care for a disabled child or spouse, who care for child under the age of 2 and who are under 20 and attending a high school program. Creates extensions based on whether the recipient has rejected a job and the degree to which the recipient has cooperated with agency in work-related activity.

NE *1994 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1224, Sec. 24*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to a total of 24 months of assistance. Exempts certain families. Extends benefits in cases where the state fails to meet terms of a self-sufficiency agreement and where no job is available for the recipient. Provides for cash assistance to help families who face extreme hardship because of the limit.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 346, Sec. 4*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 36 months of assistance in a 60-month period. Exempts certain families. Provides for an extension of benefit payments beyond the limit if an adult recipient participates in workfare.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 1, 2, 4*
Limits the benefit period of an AFDC recipient to 24 out of 84 months, with exceptions. Specifies exemptions. Provides for extension for recipients making a good faith effort to find a job but limits the extension to 1 percent of caseload.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 2, 11, 12 and Part IV, Sec.1*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 24 months of assistance out of 120 months and a lifetime limit of 60 months. Exempts certain families. Provides for an extension if the recipient is fulfilling the terms of the mutual responsibility agreement but is unable to get a job.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 3.01*
Limits benefits to nonexempt families according to the adult recipient's education and work experience. Sets a one-year limit for a recipient with a high school diploma or recent work experience of 18 months or more. Sets a two-year limit for recipients with at least three years of high school or six months work experience. Sets a three-year limit for all others. Specifies exemptions. Allows the department to extend benefits if severe personal hardship would result or if community economic conditions prevent the recipient from obtaining employment. Allows recipients to reapply after not receiving benefits for five years.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 450, Sec. 63.1-133.50*
Limits families with nonexempt adult recipients to 24 months of assistance out of a period of 48 months. Specifies exemptions. Provides for extensions if the recipient is actively seeking employment but is unable to find a job or if the recipient lost a job for reasons other than performance.

General Assistance

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 194*

Sec. 1-3, 5-9, 22, 30—Changes the general assistance programs by defining the time period and employability regulations and changes the benefits package, with exceptions.

Sec. 19, 26-27—Creates a task force to study the effectiveness of the current job training programs for participating AFDC and general assistance recipients. Requires a report of the data, recommendations and findings to the Human Services and Appropriations committees.

Sec. 21—Prohibits general assistance vendors from presenting any false claim for payment.

Sec. 24—Requires an expedited AFDC application and eligibility determination process to reduce general assistance expenditures for families who are potentially eligible for AFDC. Requires the development and implementation of a new biometric identifier system for the AFDC and general assistance programs to identify individuals through retinal scanning, finger imaging, hand geometry or facial features.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455, Sec. 4*

Specifies that individuals declared ineligible for general assistance due to their own actions or inactions are also ineligible for general assistance from counties.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 18*

Removes a requirement on counties to provide services in addition to the minimum monthly relief benefit in general and eliminates a requirement to update needs standards annually.

Housing and Homeless Assistance

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 268*

Transfers responsibility for the Neighborhood Assistance Program to the Department of Revenue to make changes in tax credits and investments as they relate to job training, education, crime prevention and low to moderate income housing. Changes deadlines and places limits on tax credit claims.

IL *1995 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-634*

Creates the Education for Homeless Children Act and defines the terms "homeless person" and "school of origin."

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 2 and 15*

Appropriates funds for emergency assistance to families with dependent children for homeless prevention programs. Provides for a $500 maximum payment, per family, in a 12-month period. Allows the state to receive refunds of rent deposits for the program. Provides housing funds for those who are mentally ill and homeless.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 599*

Allows a public housing authority to request that rent be deducted from an AFDC grant when a tenant is delinquent in paying.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 124*

Permits the state to make rent payments directly to the landlord or property manager for a recipient who failed to make rent payments for six consecutive weeks, upon request of the landlord or property manager.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 238*

Authorizes the state to issue rent subsidies to a family when the lack of adequate housing may cause a child to be placed in foster care.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 209*
Grants property tax exemptions for construction of low-income residences on land held by charitable institutions.

Public Assistance - General

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 998*
Requires immunization of minors receiving public assistance.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 134—Permits a demonstration project to consolidate and coordinate publicly funded programs into a single point of access system.

Sec. 137—Requires a demonstration project to provide intake, service delivery and case management functions for transitional and medical assistance, public health, social services, medical security and employment and training within a single family service center.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 259, Art. 1, Sec. 5*
Makes food assistance and Head Start recipient data private information.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 414*
Creates a permanent legislative Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families to monitor interagency service coordination, to recommend and track legislative recommendations and to examine programs, including state and national welfare reforms.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455*
Sec. 7, 21-22—Establishes a governor's roundtable to study employment, training, child care and health issues related to low-income families. Requires a study on adjusting the minimum wage, job availability, pay and benefit scales and job training resources. Requires findings be presented to the governor's roundtable and clerk of the Legislature.

Sec. 10—Establishes food stamps as a continuous benefit with eligibility reevaluated yearly, in demonstration counties.

Sec. 17—Establishes an advisory committee comprised of nonprofit agencies who provide services to low-income citizens.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 816, Sec. 25*
Permits food stamp benefits to be paid by cash instead of coupon.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part II, Sec. 6*
Assigns to the state the rights to any support, including health care expenses, which accrues to people who may apply for or receive public assistance or a foster care placement on behalf of a child or children.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 16*
Permits the development of outreach programs to provide information and assistance on support services available to AFDC and low-income families.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part VII, Sec. 1*
Requires simplified application forms for AFDC, Medicaid and Food Stamps.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 655, Sec. 6.07, 6.08*
Requires interagency agreement and coordination to provide emergency assistance for mental health or chemical dependency.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 29*
Deletes the repeal date for the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Trust Fund.

YOUTH-AT-RISK

Collaborative Initiatives

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 32*
Directs agencies to work with school districts and private schools to develop procedures for disclosure of information about minors to school officials.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1203*
Establishes the Common Ground Program to prevent high-risk behaviors. Directs collaboration among government agencies, private entities and citizens.

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1239*
Authorizes planning grants for Healthy Start services. Changes certain administrative and financing components.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 318, Sec. 24*
Extends the reporting deadline of the task force on minority males.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 155*
Requests a study to coordinate programs to provide services to at-risk children.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418, Sec. A-44*
Requires the development of curriculum and materials on teenage pregnancy, parenting and child support obligations to be used in schools.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3*
Sec. 44—Authorizes pilot projects to be established at neighborhood centers to offer services ranging from recreation to social services to job skills for youth. Mandates accessible hours.

Sec. 62—Authorizes a multi-agency demonstration project to address the needs of young children whose behaviors indicate they are at high-risk for delinquency.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 721*
Requires the state to create family resource centers in at-risk neighborhoods to provide or refer people to several types of services including social services, mental health, child care and educational programs.

UT *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 129*
Authorizes the chief administrative officer or designee, during an athletic event, to direct a person who commits certain acts to leave the premises. Prohibits such people who fail to leave from entering the premises for athletic events for the remainder of the year and establishes penalties.

Missing and Homeless Children/Runaways/Curfews

CA *1994 Cal. Stats., Chap. 1269, Sec. 57-59*
Requires Social Security numbers of both parents on birth certificates so that the information is available to district attorneys when enforcing child support orders or locating missing children.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 399, Sec. 2, Subsec. 6 and 7*
Permits curfew violators and minors whose parents or guardians have reported them missing without consent to be held in informal detention for up to 12 hours.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1158*
Authorizes peace and probation officers to take a minor into custody under certain circumstances.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 227*
Increases a child victim's age from 12 to 16 years in parental child abduction cases.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 2, Sec. 1*
Excludes unmarried minors from curfew, requires metropolitan areas to set a lower curfew time for younger children and increases the curfew age.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 4, Sec. 4*
Expands the community crime reduction program to include grants for homeless youth.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 48*
Changes the agency that receives law enforcement information about missing children.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 443*
Sets minimum and maximum fixed sentences for felonies, including crimes against children, such as kidnapping, child abuse and sex offenses. Requires offenders to serve the minimum sentence.

NV *1995 Nev. Stats., Chap. 505*
Requires the state to produce license plates and earmark a portion of the fee to support missing or exploited children.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 194*
Reduces the time period during which a child must be reported missing to be eligible for victim compensation.

OH *1994 Ohio Laws, H. 580*
Permits township trustees to enact curfews in unincorporated areas. Requires a violator to be charged as an unruly child. Requires the registrar of motor vehicles to prescribe distinguishing characteristics for licenses and identifications of people under 21 years old.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 314*
Enacts the "Child Curfew Act of 1995" to regulate the presence of children under age 18 in public places between certain hours.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 178*
Increases the age under the definition of missing child.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 262*
Allows counties or general law municipalities to adopt curfews for minors under 17 during school hours and from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise. Permits a violator to be detained in a processing office up to six hours, if not released to a parent or guardian or brought before a municipal or justice court.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 642*
Prohibits trespassing on school property with intent to abduct a student and sets penalties.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 312, Sec. 2-18*
Defines statutory terms related to runaways. Requires police to place runaways in secure crisis residential centers (CRCs) when home, workplace, relatives, a responsible adult or a licensed youth shelter cannot be used. Requires the child to be held 24 hours, unless picked up by the parent. Establishes CRC staffing ratios and allowed locations. Mandates assessments of each child placed. Requires police to compile a central information registry on runaways. Permits social services departments to create multidisciplinary teams to assist families with runaways in assessment, evaluation and referral to services. Establishes time and hearing requirements, procedures and protocols.

School Drop-Out, Suspension/School Safety/Truancy

AL *1995 Ala. Acts, Act 539*
Requires schools to adopt policy on student discipline. Grants immunity to school officials implementing corporal punishment. Requires schools to provide legal support to teachers who use corporal punishment in accordance with school policy.

AK *1995 Alaska Sess. Laws, Chap. 19*
Establishes grounds on which a student may be suspended or denied admission.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1097*
Directs the development of materials for target courses to teach current state laws to students in grades 7-12.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 472*
Allows school districts to prohibit any student who has been expelled from another district from enrolling until the expulsion time has expired.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 572*
Requires school districts to inform parents when their children accumulate excessive unexcused absences.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 712*
Creates the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program to provide grants to local community partnerships for programs that enhance educational attainment for students who are at risk of school failure or delinquency.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 888*
Requires school principals to report all felonies or other violent criminal acts committed against a school employee or student to the local law enforcement agency and school district.

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 162*
Authorizes a program on teenage pregnancy and dropout prevention for Medicaid recipients.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 182, Sec. 5*
Deletes a requirement on school boards to report the number of habitual truants on a school-by-school basis.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 304*
Defines truant and habitual truant and makes other changes to truancy proceedings. Requires school officials to track and report weapons expulsions to law enforcement. Prohibits possession of remote pagers in school. Requires law enforcement to notify school officials when a student is arrested for a misdemeanor.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 234*
Creates an after-school dropout and at-risk grant program for school districts. Requires parental attendance at a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan conference before the student is permitted to return from expulsion or suspension.

GA *1995 Ga. Laws, Act 328, Sec. 3*
Requires written notice to school superintendents when a student is adjudicated delinquent for a second time or involved in any designated felony proceeding.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-628*
Requires dropouts under 18 and seeking a driver's license to be enrolled in a GED program or have passed at least eight courses in the two semesters prior to dropping out or obtain parental or guardian consent and the regional superintendent's written consent.

IN *1995 Ind. Acts, P.L. 132-1995*
Suspends the driver's license for a minor who is a habitual truant or has withdrawn from school. Establishes procedures for reestablishing driving privileges.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 191*
Sec. 4—Requires a peace officer who takes a juvenile into custody for a drug or alcohol offense to notify a juvenile court officer. Requires the juvenile court officer to try to notify the juvenile's school.

Sec. 20—Allows schools to prohibit students from wearing gang-related clothing.

Sec. 55-56—Eliminates the requirement that students be provided 24 hours notice before a locker inspection. Allows any locker inspection without notice if the school has provided prior written notice of its intent to inspect lockers and if the student is present during inspection.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 29*
Expands the definition of "inexcusably absent" and authorizes law enforcement to detain and deliver children who are away from school without an excuse.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 142*
Specifies circumstances for waiving a student's opportunity for a school suspension hearing.

KS *1995 Kan. Sess. Laws, Chap. 259*
Requires the newly created youth authority to consult with the schools on delinquency prevention.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 139*
Requires city and parish school boards to establish placement and education policies for children who have been abandoned by their parents. Prohibits denying enrollment in school to students on the grounds of abandonment by their parents.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 124*
Permits an officer to transport a truant student to the appropriate school if the student and the student's parent or guardian grant verbal permission.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 112*
Requires the notification of school superintendents of certain police and juvenile court records for an enrollee. Requires confidentiality regarding the records and prohibits their use, except to provide appropriate educational programming and services for the child and to maintain a safe school environment.

MD *1995 Md. Laws, Chap. 350*
Modifies the requirement that a person have "control" over a child in order to have a duty to see that the child attends school. Requires a person with legal custody or care and control of a child to see that the child attends school. Increases penalties for second conviction.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 110*
Requires AFDC recipients under 20 to be enrolled in a high school diploma or general education development certificate program if they have not received their diploma or equivalent. Requires the department to provide child care for participants who are unable to secure informal or alternative child care.

MN *1995 Minn. Laws, Chap. 226, Art. 3*
Sec. 1—Requires a report on the impact of laws and programs on school safety and violence prevention.

Sec. 3, 9-11—Requires schools to refer children who are habitually truant to services and to notify parents. Increases school suspension up to 10 days. Requires expulsion for bringing firearms to school and allows locker searches.

Sec. 8, 13, 31, 48—Increases the penalties for violating the compulsory school attendance law. Authorizes denial of driving privileges for habitual truancy. Allows the court to order a parent to deliver a truant child to school. Makes it a gross misdemeanor for three or more people to trespass on school property.

Sec. 20, 22—Prohibits filing a truancy petition in juvenile court without exhausting other procedures where there is a school attendance review board or mediation program.

Sec. 26—Clarifies school notification procedures imposed on law enforcement agencies.

Sec. 37-43—Authorizes a continuum of programs, including school review boards and county attorney mediation programs, to combat truancy and specifies juvenile court involvement only when necessary.

Sec. 63—Authorizes a truancy reduction grant pilot program.

MS *1995 Miss. Gen. Laws, Chap. 452*
Clarifies parental obligations to attend their child's disciplinary conference and potential offenses and penalties for not attending.

MO *1995 Mo. Laws, HB 174, 325 and 326*
Sec. 32.115, 135.460, 620.1100, .1103—Creates a youth opportunities and violence prevention fund and gives tax credits for individuals and corporations that contribute to certain programs including dropout prevention and drug and alcohol prevention.

Sec. 167.126—Requires school districts to educate a child placed in that district by court order or by the mental health or social services department.

Sec. 167.161, .171—Allows school districts to suspend students for felony arrests or convictions. Increases the length of school suspensions.

Sec. 170.046—Requires the state to establish program materials on nonviolent conflict resolution and ethical decision making to be offered in schools and to the public. Requires schools to notify students of all changes in juvenile law.

Sec. 589.300, .310—Grants priority to partnerships between local governments and schools when applying for crime prevention funds.

NE *1995 Neb. Laws, L.B. 455, Sec. 10 and L.B. 1224 (94)*
Requires parents to ensure school attendance for children, encourages minor parents to reside with parents, in demonstration counties.

NH *1995 N.H. Laws, Chap. 231*
Requires a school employee to immediately report all simple assaults to supervisors and police except when the school board has established a discipline code and policy.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 34*
Requires the state to notify schools of its findings in child abuse investigations against school employees. Requires schools to remove any references to the complaint from personnel records when the complaint is deemed unfounded or unsubstantiated.

NJ *1995 N.J. Laws, Chap. 128*
Requires that a student who assaults a school employee or other student with a weapon on school property or at a school event be removed from school and placed in alternative education.

NY *1995 N.Y. Laws, Chap. 83, Sec. 236*
Creates demonstration projects in specific areas to decentralize child welfare services to improve service delivery, increase adoptions and reduce the rate of foster care placements. Requires coordination with community schools and school health clinics.

OK *1995 Okla. Sess. Laws, Chap. 270*
Allows truant officers to give warnings that a child is required to attend school. Requires the attendance officer to notify the parent or guardian and the district attorney if a child is absent without valid excuse for a certain period.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 116*
Requires a superintendent to issue a school attendance citation to a parent or guardian of a pupil who fails to attend full-time.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 237*
Specifies when a change of special education placement occurs if a child is suspended.

RI *1995 R.I. Pub. Laws, Chap. 60*
Enables localities and school boards to adopt early intervention and mediation truancy programs.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 6, 9*
Requires the state to improve child health access, establish teen parent school dropout initiatives and parent effectiveness training programs for AFDC families. Encourages immunization, school attendance, preventative health and pregnancy prevention for families.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 149*
Extends penalties to parents of habitually truant children in grades K – 6 to parents of grades K – 12 children.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 333*
Extends truancy and attendance provisions to children aged 5 – 7 who have entered school or kindergarten.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 365*
Authorizes suspension of students legally charged with an off-campus felony and if student's continued presence poses a danger to people or property or disrupts school.

TN *1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts, Chap. 538*
Appropriates renewable grants to local education agencies for the planning, implementation and operation of family resource centers. Requires a 50 percent increase in grants to centers. Allows operation by local education agencies or a contract with a community-based, nonprofit agency.

TX *1995 Tex. Gen. Laws, Chap. 626*
Requires that instructional and support staff be notified when a student is arrested for certain criminal offenses. Mandates confidentiality.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 97*
Expands suspension and expulsion policies to include frequent or flagrant disobedience, disruptive behavior, possession or use of alcohol or possession or threatened use of real or look alike weapons or explosives. Requires school districts to develop standards and procedures for student conduct away from campus.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 229*
Requires the Education Board to be responsible for the education of children under 21 who are in the custody of a Native American Tribe agency equivalent to the department .

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 255*
Coordinates educational services with human service programs subject to licensing procedures. Requires the program to provide evidence of satisfactory educational services to children.

UT *1995 Utah Laws, Chap. 302, Sec. 5, 22, 33*
Defines educational neglect as clear and convincing evidence that the child has failed to make educational progress, is two or more years behind age group expectations in one or more basic skills and is not receiving remediation and school officials are in compliance with requirements. Prohibits children from being removed from a natural parent on the basis of educational neglect.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 429*
Provides that school superintendents be notified when a delinquency petition for certain serious offenses is filed in juvenile court. Limits disclosure to principals and others.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 493*
Prohibits entrance without authorization upon school or church property, including school buses, at night for purposes other than to attend a meeting or service.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 681*
Prohibits corporal punishment by school personnel as a means of discipline, with certain exceptions. Defines "corporal punishment" and clarifies its parameters. Absolves school personnel from civil liability when acting in compliance.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 852*
Sec. 22.1-199.1-A—Establishes the Statewide Voluntary Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Class Size Reduction Program for grades K - 3 in schools with at-risk students.

Sec. 22.1-279.3—Establishes parental responsibility in public schools. Requires schools to offer parental involvement activities. Provides civil penalties enforceable in court and requires that cash penalties be paid into a local fund to improve student behavior.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 311*
Sets administrative procedures for releasing health, disciplinary, behavioral and special educational records of new students to school districts.

WA *1995 Wash. Laws, Chap. 312*
Sec. 2-18—Defines statutory terms related to runaways. Requires police to place runaways in secure crisis residential centers (CRCs) when home, workplace, relatives, a responsible adult or a licensed youth shelter cannot be used. Requires the child to be held 24 hours, unless picked up by the parent. Establishes CRC staffing ratios and allowed locations. Mandates assessments of each child placed. Requires police to compile a central information registry on runaways. Permits state social services departments to create multidisciplinary teams to assist families with runaways in assessment, evaluation and referral to services. Establishes time and hearing requirements, procedures and protocols.

Sec. 66-75—Requires school district to file truancy petitions in juvenile court against students and parents if a student has five unexcused absences monthly or 10 per year. Permits courts to require parents to do community service in the student's school. Establishes jurisdiction to hear truancy petitions with court and family law commissioners. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to report on truancy to the Legislature annually. Allows school districts to create community truancy boards. Requires secondary schools to specify restrictions on students leaving school grounds. Allows police and school officials to take truants to a program designated by the school district. Asks the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to evaluate the effectiveness of the truancy petition process adopted under this act, to develop a statewide definition of excused and unexcused absences and to review the policy of prohibiting school districts from suspending or expelling students for truancy.

WA *1995 Wash Laws, Chap. 324*
Adds school boards and private schools to groups receiving shared juvenile records of enrollees. Provides immunity for school employees who release such information.

WV *1995 W. Va. Acts, Chap. 96*
Prohibits hazing at public schools, colleges and universities.

WI *1995 Wis. Laws, Act 22, Sec. 4*
Creates a penalty enhancement for violent crimes committed on or near school property.

WY *1995 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 177*
Includes use of a truancy statute among a list of required options a prosecutor must consider when alleging that a child is in need of supervision.

Teenage Pregnancy

CO *1995 Colo. Sess. Laws, Chap. 162*
Authorizes a program on teenage pregnancy and dropout prevention for Medicaid recipients.

CT *1995 Conn. Acts, P.A. 227*
Establishes a media campaign program to prevent teenage pregnancy.

IA *1995 Iowa Acts, Chap. 205, Sec. 11*
Appropriates funds for teenage pregnancy prevention grants. Earmarks a portion of the money for broad based community or regional groups. Addresses program priorities and requires evaluation.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1168*
Requires physicians to inform a patient of the risks associated with Norplant contraceptive devices and of alternative contraception methods.

LA *1995 La. Acts, Act 1254*
Permits the court to issue an order authorizing a decision regarding an abortion. Authorizes the court to notify the minor's parents of the proceedings, if appropriate.

LA *1995 La. Acts, SCR 61*
Requests designation of the week of Oct. 1 - 7,1995, as Teen Pregnancy Awareness and Prevention Week.

ME *1995 Me. Laws, Chap. 418*
Sec. A-5—Requires the state to provide educational services about teenage pregnancy.

Sec. A-14—Establishes the Peer Education Project to provide family planning, education and counseling services to AFDC recipients at risk of repeat pregnancy and minors at risk of becoming AFDC recipients. Provides employment for AFDC recipients as peer education workers.

Sec. A-44—Requires the development of curriculum and materials on teenage pregnancy, parenting and child support obligations to be used in schools.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5*
Sec. 110—Excludes transitional housing programs serving teenage parents over 16 from the definition of a group care facility.

Sec. 126—Requires a statewide school-age parenting program and a school-to-work initiative to provide school-age youth with increased job experience and opportunity.

Sec. 127—Requires the coordination of policies, programs and funding for the provision of housing and support services for pregnant and parenting teens.

MT *1995 Mont. Laws, Chap. 414*
Creates a permanent legislative Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families to monitor interagency service coordination, recommend and track legislative recommendations and examine issues including those affecting teen parents.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 462*
Requires that physicians receive parental consent before performing an abortion on an unemancipated minor under age 18. Allows waiver of parental consent under certain circumstances.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. SJR 22*
Encourages the Education Department to develop an abstinence curriculum for teen pregnancy prevention.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part III, Sec. 2*
Requires employers of AFDC recipients to provide annual leave for recipients to obtain family planning services.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part V, Sec. 9*
Requires the state to improve child health access, and establish teen parent school dropout initiatives and parent effectiveness training programs for AFDC families.

Youth Employment

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 858*
Allows children under age 16 to work in bowling alleys.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1103*
Allows an income tax credit to businesses participating in a youth apprenticeship program.

AR *1995 Ark. Acts, Act 1278*
Creates the Community Work, Recreation and Youth Opportunities Act to combat drug abuse and violent activities.

IL *1994 Ill. Laws, P.A. 88-594, Sec. 8*
Allows television or motion picture employers to apply for a waiver from child labor laws for employees under age 16.

MA *1995 Mass. Acts, Chap. 5, Sec. 126*
Requires a plan to expand the comprehensive school-age parenting program statewide and a school-to-work plan to provide school-age youth with increased job experiences and opportunities.

NC *1995 N.C. Sess. Laws, Chap. 214*
Changes the list of reviewers of youth employment certificates. Allows the county director of social services to delegate the function of issuing youth employment certificates.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 298*
Deletes the requirement that a business pay a youth more than other employees. Requires a business to pay a youth not less than the state minimum wage.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 477*
Authorizes 16- and 17-year-olds to work in agricultural warehouses.

OR *1995 Or. Laws, Chap. 648*
Establishes the First Break tax credit program for employers who hire gang-involved youth.

SC *1995 S.C. Acts, R. 96, Part VII, Sec. 4*
Requires the state to endorse and promote school-to-work transition programs aimed at ensuring employability of at-risk secondary school students. Requires that continuing and adult education programs are designed to maximize an AFDC client's self-sufficiency efforts.

VA *1995 Va. Acts, Chap. 274*
Appropriates funds and authorizes school boards to establish transitional school-to-work programs for noncollege-bound students in grades 5 through 12. Requires that college-bound students be allowed to participate.

THE NCSL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROGRAM

NCSL's Children and Families Program is designed to meet the needs of state legislatures in developing policy and programs related to children and families. The following services are available at no cost to legislators and staff:

- Information clearinghouse
- Research assistance
- Publications
- Technical assistance

Technical assistance includes testimony at committee hearings, briefing sessions for state legislators and their staffs, and bill drafting and analysis. Resources and expertise are provided by NCSL staff, national experts and legislators.

Project Areas

Child Care. Funded through grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Foundation for Child Development, this project assists state legislators to expand and improve the quality of early childhood care and education with particular emphasis on developing public policy expertise in financing and coordinating services using new federal money. Other issue areas include licensing and regulation, affordable credentials and ongoing training programs for providers, support systems for family day care providers and affordable quality early childhood programs for low-income families.

Child Welfare. Funded by the Edna McConnell-Clark Foundation, this project assists state legislators to improve state systems that serve children and families in crisis. Out-of-home placement is the most expensive form of service and contributes to trauma for the child and instability for the family. Because placements and costs are increasing, states are exploring service alternatives. Information is available on family preservation services, adoption, other placement alternatives, interagency coordination and collaboration, financing services, and child abuse and neglect.

Family Support. The Stewart S. Mott Foundation is supporting development of a project to help lawmakers in assess and expand state family support services for at-risk families. The project will assist legislatures in implementing the new federal Family Preservation and Support Act.

For more information, call or write Shelley Smith, Program Director, Children and Families Program, National Conference of State Legislatures, 1560 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado 80202, (303) 830-2200.

1995 State Legislative Summary

Children, Youth and Family Issues

This publication is a compendium of laws affecting children and youth that were enacted by the 50 states and the District of Columbia in the 1995 legislative session.l Topic areas include child abuse and neglect, child care and early childhood education, child mental health, child support enforcement, child welfare, family law, juvenile justice, substance abuse, welfare reform and public assistance, and youth at risk.

National Conference of State Legislatures

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